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STARS AND STRIPES®

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Special ops not gunning for carbs

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Special Operations Command is not launching an all-out assault on carbs in a war of nutrition.

Word that the Pentagon was set to mandate a low-carbohydrate, high-fat, ketogenic diet for servicemen spread like spilled avocado oil across the internet last week, with some respected outlets repeating the claim.

From the Pizza Hut in Bagram, Afghanistan, to the Subway at Eielson Air Force Base in North Pole, Alaska, no facility would be safe — if the premise of the reports was true.

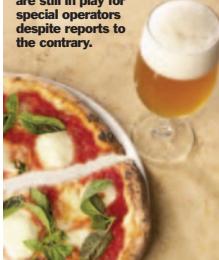
It was not, Army Maj. Tony Mayne, a spokesman for the command, told Stars and Stripes via email.

"USSOCOM does not envision a scenario that would mandate adherence to a particular diet for its operators," Mayne said.

The basis for the now-disputed story was a May speech by SOCOM's science and technology director, Lisa Sanders, in which she touted the potential benefits the diet would hold for the military, such as allowing divers to stay underwater longer.

SEE CARBS ON PAGE 4

Pizza and beer are still in play for special operators despite reports to the contrary.



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Fighting for a family

Abortion arguments at play in limiting veterans' IVF benefit

BY JULIE CARR SMYTH
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A federal program to help injured veterans and their spouses conceive children through in vitro fertilization is being hobbled by anti-abortion forces that oppose how the process can lead to embryos being destroyed.

Since 2012, Democrats in Congress have repeatedly championed

legislation permanently extending IVF benefits to veterans whose injuries in the line of duty have left them unable to conceive children otherwise.

But those bills have fizzled in the face of opposition from Catholic bishops and others in favor of a temporary program that must be reauthorized every year, complicating efforts by eligible veterans to begin or extend their families. The benefit

is further limited to exclude unmarried couples and those who need donor eggs or sperm. In addition, the woman must have an intact uterus.

Those limitations have been a problem for couples like Jacob and Ashley Lyerla, who needed to use donor sperm and eggs to create viable embryos after three heart-wrenching rounds of IVF using their own genetic material failed.

SEE IVF ON PAGE 5

Jacob and Ashley Lyerla, pictured at their home in Milroy, Ind., on June 11, have spent about \$35,000 out of pocket to continue in vitro fertilization with donor gametes.

JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

MILITARY

New commander to oversee Marines in Europe, Africa

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann took command Tuesday of U.S. Marines in Europe and Africa, overseeing a mission that involves everything from countering Russia in the High North to improving the combat skills of allies involved in counterterrorism fights in Africa.

Hermesmann replaced Maj. Gen. Russell A.C. Sanborn during a ceremony at Devil Dog Field at Marine Forces Europe and Africa headquarters in Boeblingen, Germany.

"It has truly been my privilege to serve with the outstanding



'I know that our Marines will continue to live up to the high standards we have set, and will continue to raise the bar through tough, realistic training.'

Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann
Commander of Marines in Europe and Africa

Marines, sailors, civilians, and families of MARFOREUR/AF," Sanborn said, according to a statement. "Looking back at my 33 years of service, I couldn't be prouder of all of you, for who you are, and what you have done."

During Sanborn's tenure, a focal point for the Corps has been the expansion of the mission in Norway, as the Marines expand cold weather and mountain warfare training. The mission in Norway began in 2017 with about 330 Marines and now involves up to 700 troops who keep a steady rotational presence in the country. The mission emerged as U.S. European Command put increased emphasis on deterring potential Russian aggression across Europe.

However, the Germany-based Marine headquarters also is involved in scores of activities in Africa. In addition to large-scale drills, like the annual Africa Lion

exercises, Marines also serve as a quick reaction force for the continent. Based in Moron, Spain, the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa was formed in the aftermath of the 2012 attacks on a U.S. diplomatic facility in Libya.

Hermesmann, who recently relinquished command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea, said he will carry the missions forward.

The command "has clearly shown that we can train, deploy, and operate Marines throughout Europe and Africa who are ready to respond to crises in any climate and place," Hermesmann said, according to a statement. "I know that our Marines will continue to live up to the high standards we have set, and will continue to raise the bar through tough, realistic training."

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Correction

A quote that appeared in Tuesday's edition in an article about the change of command at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, was inaccurate. The quote by new 18th Wing commander Brig. Gen. Joel Carey should have said: "From Kandahar to the Pacific, I've had the honor and, frankly, the challenge of trying to fill your shoes more than once over the last few years, and your fingerprints on this mission, this organization are extremely clear to me."

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New emergency alerts set for Army in Europe

Stars and Stripes

A new emergency messaging system for the Army community in Europe will begin operating later this month.

Called "Alert! Mass Warning Notification System," it is expected to streamline how personnel are alerted in the event of a crisis. It will replace the AtHoc system used by garrisons in Europe.

The Army currently has two systems deployed across 100 installations, Installation Management Command-Europe, the agency that oversees garrison operations, said in a statement. Using a single service would reduce costs and redundant investments, the statement said.

Army garrisons in Europe will move to the new system between July 22 and Aug. 2. The switch is part of an Army-wide effort to migrate to the new mass warning system, IMCOM-E said.

Alert!, much like the current system, notifies soldiers, Army civilians and their families during a crisis, and can issue alerts in the event of incidents including an active shooter situation, inclement weather or any other safety hazard.

Messages can be received via computer desktop pop-up, mobile phone, text message and email. Users can opt to receive notifications on up to 10 different phone numbers.

Current AtHoc user accounts will automatically be migrated to the new system, IMCOM-E said. Army personnel not registered with the AtHoc system will be able to sign up via the new system after the migration is complete.

For information, community members are advised to contact their local garrison emergency managers or consult garrison websites.

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Professor will study digitally archiving military memories

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — An assistant professor at Louisiana State University's library school has received a \$391,000 grant to find the best ways to preserve the digital archives of veterans and active-duty servicemen.

Edward Benoit III began his "Virtual Footlocker Project" after inheriting a footlocker of letters, photos, journals and other memorabilia from his father's career as an Air Force officer.

Benoit, who is also a veteran, already has studied how today's military members and veterans are documenting their service, since most no longer keep journals, letters and photos on paper. Such memories can be more than family treasures, becoming part of museums or other archives where they document and humanize wartime experiences and sacrifices.

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Jeffrey Kim salutes during a ceremony in which he relinquished command of Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Tuesday.

Jarrett comes aboard to command Yokosuka

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's largest overseas base welcomed a new commander on Tuesday but not a newcomer to the Indo-Pacific region.

Capt. Rich Jarrett took charge of the installation — the official title is Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka — from Capt. Jeffrey Kim, who held the post for three years, at a change-of-command ceremony on Command Hill.

"Our close cooperative friendship with our uniformed Japanese counterparts is one of the most treasured aspects of serving in Yokosuka," Kim said during the ceremony in the base auditorium. "The collective resolve of Japan and the U.S. is expressed in the spirit of freedom that sails from the ships of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and the U.S. 7th Fleet."

Yokosuka employs about 24,000 military and civilian personnel who provide services and support for 7th Fleet. The base is home for more than 70 tenant commands and homeport for the USS Blue Ridge, the fleet command ship; the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, the only carrier permanently deployed outside the United States; and more than a dozen other warships.

"It was almost two years ago that I made Fleet Activities Yokosuka the top of my list for duty assignments," Jarrett said during the ceremony, "and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the fleet and its forward-deployed forces in the Navy's most challenging region."

Jarrett's last posting was with the U.S. Fleet Forces Command Liaison Office in Washington, D.C. Previously, he was a surface warfare officer and part of the commissioning crew of the USS Freedom and then commander of the USS Fort Worth, both relatively new littoral combat ships.

As Fort Worth commander, Jarrett was among the first U.S. skippers to bump heads with the Chinese navy in the South China Sea. Before freedom-of-navigation operations became regular events, the Fort Worth in May 2015 was trailed by a Chinese frigate as it made its way near the disputed Spratly Islands.

Jarrett, then a commander in rank, used agreed-upon radio codes to talk with his Chinese counterpart, whom the Fort Worth met "unexpectedly," according to the *Japan Times*. "I expect that we may have a

CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes
Capt. Rich Jarrett speaks after taking command of Yokosuka Naval Base.

similar encounter because we're operating in this part of the world," the newspaper quoted Jarrett as saying in June 2015.

When he turned over command of the Fort Worth the following month, Jarrett was one of the longest serving officers in the littoral combat ship program.

Jarrett, originally from Charleston, W.Va., is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, West Virginia University, the Naval War College and the National War College.

Kim's next assignment takes him to the National Institute for Defense Studies in Tokyo. The strategic institute trains high-level Self-Defense Force officers and holds the Japanese Ministry of Defense's core policy research division, which focuses on studies in military history and security.

While taking command in July 2016 at Yokosuka, Kim quoted the late Sen. Mike Mansfield, also the longest-serving U.S. ambassador to Japan: "The U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none."

Previously, Kim served as deputy director for Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Action Group and spent a year in Tokyo on a fellowship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, the National Diet and the Kanagawa prefectural government.

Kim emigrated at age 9 with his family from South Korea and is a past commander of the guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain, which is stationed at Yokosuka.

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Runway work brings drones near Black Sea

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Air Force unmanned aircraft are flying out of a temporary camp in Romania, a move that puts intelligence-gathering capabilities closer to the Black Sea as tensions between U.S. partners and Russia continue in the region.

The shift south for a group of MQ-9 Reapers was prompted by construction at their main operating base in northwest Poland, U.S. Air Forces in Europe said. An unspecified number of personnel and support equipment have relocated with the Reapers to Campia Turzii Air Base in the center of Romania, while the runway is worked on at Miroslavie Air Base, which lies about 100 miles east of the Polish Baltic seaport of Szczecin.

"This temporary relocation is conducted with the full cooperation of our NATO ally, Romania," USAFE said in a statement Thursday.

The Air Force has been operating drones out of Poland since May 2018. The mission is carried out by the 52nd Expeditionary Operations Group Detachment 2, a separated unit assigned to the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany.

While USAFE hasn't detailed the areas the aircraft patrol, the unit's mission is to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in support of U.S. European Command. When operating out of Poland, that likely meant surveying coastal areas along the Baltic Sea and Poland's border with the Russian military enclave of Kaliningrad.

The Reapers now have taken up temporary residence in Romania, which lies on the Black Sea. In April, NATO agreed to boost its presence near the sea in the hope



PRESTON CHERRY/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An MQ-9 Reaper taxis toward the runway at Miroslavie Air Base, Poland, in March. Some MQ-9s are now at Campia Turzii Air Base, Romania, where the runway undergoes construction.

of improving the alliance's situational awareness.

Tensions in the Black Sea escalated last year when Russia seized three Ukrainian ships, a clash that sparked worries from other Black Sea nations like Romania and Bulgaria.

"The U.S. works closely with Romania and other NATO allies and partners to bolster collective defense capabilities and enhance regional security," USAFE said.

USAFAF did not say how long the Reapers would be in Romania.

However, last month, the U.S. and Poland reached a deal to expand the U.S. military mission in that country, including the establishment of a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 reconnaissance squadron in Poland.

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Ranger tapped for Joint Special Operations Command position

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Bishop, who served most of his career with the 75th Ranger Regiment, has been selected to be the next senior enlisted adviser for Joint Special Operations Command, the Pentagon announced last week.

Bishop, 45, is now the command sergeant major for the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., a position that he has held since March 2018. He will replace Command Sgt. Maj. David Blake.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Bishop epitomizes the non-commissioned officer corps, leads from the front, and sets the example for all soldiers to emulate," Maj. Gen. John S. Kalashski, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, said Monday in a prepared statement.

The change of responsibility will happen next summer, according to Kenneth McGraw, a spokesman with U.S. Special Operations Command.

Joint Special Operations Command, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., is in charge of developing joint special operations tactics, conducting training, and also studying special operations requirements and



techniques, according to the U.S. Special Operations Command's website.

A native of Sweetwater, Tenn., Bishop enlisted in the Army in 1992, according to his service biography.

He has been assigned several times to battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga.

Bishop has attended several military schools including the U.S. Army Ranger course, Army Pathfinder school, Basic Airborne course, as well as Army Jumpmaster school.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit medal, a Bronze Star with Valor device, the Purple Heart, and five Meritorious Service Medals.

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MILITARY

All-Afghan talks end with country closer to peace

By KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — All-Afghan talks that brought together Afghanistan's warring sides ended Tuesday with a statement that appeared to push the country a step closer to peace by laying down the outlines of a road map for the country's future and ending nearly 18 years of war.

Washington's peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, has said he is hoping for a final agreement by Sept. 1, which would allow the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops. He will begin an eighth round of peace talks with the Taliban later Tuesday also in Qatar's capital, Doha, where the two-day conference was held.

Tuesday's statement said that a postwar Afghanistan would have an Islamic legal system, protect women's rights "within the Islamic framework of Islamic values" and ensure equality for all ethnic groups. The much-touted conference was attended by Taliban, Afghan government representatives, women and members of the country's nascent civil society. It aimed to produce a new level of consensus among Afghanistan's divided society.

No date was given for the tough negotiations to follow, when the many sides in Afghanistan's protracted conflict will sit down to hammer out the details of what an Islamic system will look like, how constitutional reform will come about and what will become of the many local militias affiliated with the country's powerful warlords, who are affiliated with Kabul.

They will also have to tackle how women's rights fit into the definition of the "Islamic values" as well as whether to set up an interim administration and when elections should be held.

The conference agreed to keep the momentum going with confidence-building measures. Those included the unconditional release of old, disabled and sick prisoners — though there was no mention of the affiliation of the prisoners or whether it included those captured in the war.

The warring sides also agreed not to attack institutions such as hospitals and schools, as well as national infrastructure such as hydroelectric dams. They also agreed to be more diplomatic in their references to each other.

There was no mention of a



MEHRAB Ibrahimi/AP

An Afghan man cries near bodies of those who were killed in an airstrike during a protest in Baghlan province, northern Afghanistan, on Tuesday as the latest talks to move the country toward peace ended.

cease-fire, which Khalilzad has said the negotiations on the final deal would address.

Both sides did agree to do more to protect civilians. The United Nations has expressed growing concern over civilian deaths in the conflict and has criticized all sides for rising casualty rates, including from stepped-up U.S. airstrikes.

Even as the conference was ending, an airstrike in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province killed seven people, six of them children. Early Tuesday, a strike hit Kotuk Khiel village. The residents carried the bodies of the dead to the provincial capital of Pal-e-Kumri, where Afghanistan National Defense forces had blocked the road.

Safdar Mohesni, the provincial council chief, said the airstrike was carried out by "foreigners," a reference to the United States. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military to a request from The Associated Press.

The Taliban have also been deeply criticized for their many attacks that have killed or wounded civilians, including a devastating suicide car bombing on Sunday in Ghazni province that killed 12 people and wounded more than 150 others, including many students at a nearby school.

Tuesday's statement also said all sides in the conflict would want international guarantors of any final agreement.

It said that future meetings

would be all-inclusive — without any mention of direct talks with the Afghan government. The Taliban have steadfastly refused to talk with President Ashraf Ghani's government, calling it a U.S. puppet.

Participants attending the all-Afghan conference, which Germany and Qatar jointly sponsored, attended as ordinary Afghans "on equal footing," and while there were senior government officials in attendance, they were not there in their official capacity.

Meanwhile, Khalilzad's talks with the Taliban will continue on the time frame for U.S. and NATO troop withdrawal, verifiable anti-terrorism guarantees, intra-Afghan negotiations and an eventual cease-fire.

Carbs: DOD can't require troops to eat a certain way

FROM FRONT PAGE

The stories drew inaccurate conclusions from Sanders' comments, Mayne said in response to a Stars and Stripes query.

Sanders had said that the Defense Department can't require troops to eat a certain way, even if a dietary change could increase their performance.

"I don't have the authority to tell people ... that they're going to get themselves in ketosis so they can stay in the water longer," Sanders told the Special Operations Forces Industry Conference in Tampa, Fla., in the May speech, according to the Washington Times.

The diet must also be tailored to each individual, E. Paul Zehr, a neuroscientist and professor at the University of Victoria in Canada, told Business Insider, which apparently reported on Sanders' speech in June. Crafting diets for the armed forces' 1.3 million active-duty troops and some 800,000 in the selected reserve would be an obstacle to across-the-board implementation.

By depriving the body of the carbohydrates it normally uses to

fuel cell activity, a ketogenic diet aims to put the body in a metabolic state that taps fat stores for energy. When only fat is available

to the body, it's converted into fatty acids and then into compounds called ketones, which can be used as fuel.

The diet, developed to reduce epileptic seizures in children, has gained wide popularity in recent years

for an entirely different reason: its promise of rapid weight loss without giving up fatty foods like bacon.

But the diet has reputed downsides, including some that would likely affect troop morale.

Furthermore, scientists have

For instance, in addition to depriving troops of the sugary and starchy foods many of them love, the diet has been reported to cause bad breath and other smelly nuisances.

Nutritionists caution that not only is weight loss on the keto diet often short-lived but achieving ketosis requires sticking to severe restrictions on carbohydrates. Eating just two medium-sized apples in a day could bust the limit.

Too much protein can also hamper efforts to reach the desired ketogenic state and even minor dietary lapses can cause setbacks.

A recent study published in the Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness found that even short-term ketogenic diets reduce exercise performance, especially for high-intensity, short-duration activities.

Dieticians have complained of flu-like symptoms when adjusting to the high-fat plan and of other issues including constipation, diarrhea or a foul-smelling condition known as "keto crotch," which mainly affects women.

Furthermore, scientists have



JULIAN DAVIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Pizza is sliced in the aft galley aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. Rumors of a mandated low-carbohydrate diet for servicemembers have been refuted.

the diet's long-term effects or its effect on cardiovascular or neurological health.

SOCOM is continuing to research the potential benefits of ketosis to troops in extreme environments, Sanders said in May, as well as looking at nondietary ways to induce the state.

If researchers discover that a diet or supplement can have a significant effect on performance, SOCOM would establish standards and "recommended means" to achieve them, Mayne said. "This would be akin to the current nutritional guidelines

that are applied throughout military dining facilities today," he said.

Current military menu guidance calls for healthy options at chow halls such as low-calorie sodas, low-sodium seasonings, vegetables at every meal and fresh fruit as a dessert choice.

But troops can still fill their plates with burgers nestled in high-carb buns, served with fries dipped in sugar- and sodium-rich ketchup if they choose.

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MILITARY

IVF: Proposal to store all fertilized embryos indefinitely failed

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Milroy, Ind., couple has spent about \$35,000 out of pocket to continue the expensive procedure with donor material, despite Jake being rendered a paraplegic at 19 by an IED blast in Afghanistan.

Ashley Lyerla, who is not a veteran, said IVF gives them and other couples trying to conceive the ability to bond with their babies as soon as physically possible, unlike alternatives such as adoption and surrogacy.

"By using donor embryos, you have all those memories, you have all those firsts," she said. "You're not having to make yet more sacrifices, more compromises."

Fertility treatments using IVF involve combining extracted eggs and sperm in a lab. The process involves producing multiple embryos and transferring them all into the woman's womb, in hopes one would implant and cause a pregnancy.

Today, many embryos are usually frozen as couples opt to transfer the most viable one at a time to avoid multiple births. Unused embryos may be stored indefinitely, donated to science or destroyed — a prospect opponents see as tantamount to abortion and a key sticking point in their opposition to this military program.

Restrictions imposed on the program closely mirror views the nation's most influential anti-abortion groups have espoused for years. Many of those views focus on life starting at conception, including these embryos, and the groups want to make sure they're never destroyed.

Focus on the Family, a group promoting Christian values, supports keeping IVF "within marriage," which it understands as a legal male-female union. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops teaches that God desires "a loving, sexual union" when creating children, which precludes using donor eggs or sperm or creating embryos in a lab.

Students for Life, like dozens of other anti-abortion groups, opposes IVF because of the excess fertilized embryos created. The bishops' group did not return messages seeking comment.

Brittany Raymer, an analyst with Focus on the Family, said the organization is hesitant to support legislation extending and making permanent the benefit, despite having "immense compassion for those military couples who are struggling to conceive due to an injury received while serving our country."

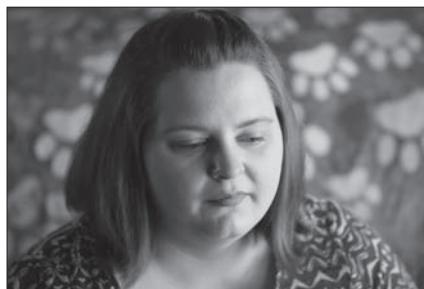
"We have numerous ethical and moral concerns relative to both IVF and surrogacy," she said in an emailed statement, including using taxpayer dollars to create embryos that might be left in a state of limbo or destroyed. The Department of Veterans Affairs said it was working to provide The Associated Press with information on how much the IVF benefit costs taxpayers.

Heather Ansley, head of government relations and advocacy for Paralyzed Veterans of Amer-



PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

A federal program to help injured veterans and their spouses — such as Ashley and Jake Lyerla, above — conceive children through in vitro fertilization is being hobbled by anti-abortion forces.



Ashley Lyerla needed to use donor eggs, and Jake needed to use donor sperm, to create viable embryos after three rounds of IVF using their own genetic material failed.

ica, is among backers of the permanent benefit for veterans and their families.

"We have a responsibility as a society to make them whole and, certainly, for many people, being a parent is part of that," she said.

In Crystal Wilson's opinion, limiting access to a permanent IVF benefit harms the families of disabled veterans who are trying to have babies. Wilson has conceived two IVF babies through the VA benefit with her husband, Tyler, who was paralyzed from the waist down when struck by a bullet in Afghanistan in 2005.

The Wilsons' difficult journey to parenthood — they have a 2-year-old son and a baby on the way — has led them to champion federal legislation expanding and making permanent the IVF benefit on behalf of other military families.

"IVF is pro-life, because we're all looking to build a family and bring children into this world, and then build them into amazing, incredible citizens of the world," Wilson said.

'We have a responsibility as a society to make them whole and, certainly, for many people, being a parent is part of that.'

Heather Ansley

Paralyzed Veterans of America head of government relations and advocacy

A total of 1,549 U.S. service-members sustained groin area injuries, 599 categorized as severe, from 2001 to 2018, according to figures from the Department of Defense Trauma Registry.

Those high numbers were a factor as Congress voted to authorize IVF coverage for veterans in September 2016 for the first time, extending a benefit already available to active-duty servicemembers. The vote lifted, at least temporarily, an earlier ban on IVF benefits for veterans secured by anti-abortion lawmakers in 1992.

U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, a Maryland Republican, physician and abortion opponent, advanced what he viewed as a compromise in 2016, calling for all the fertilized embryos created under the VA IVF benefit to be stored indefinitely, erasing any "ethical dilemma" for veterans over destroying them.

The proposal ultimately failed, in part due to concerns its language might have prevented use of frozen embryos for conception and its potential to put decisions about their fate in the hands of the government — even years after the death of those who created them.

VA spokesman Terrence Hayes said the government is not track-

ing how many babies have been successfully conceived or born through the program. What is known is that fertility needs are high among recent military veterans, with rates nearly twice as high as in the civilian population, according to a 2013 study by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It found nearly 14% of men and almost 16% of women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan reported infertility.

The National Health Study for a New Generation of U.S. Veterans found female veterans were more likely to seek care for infertility than their male counterparts. The VA says 567 eligible military families have received the IVF benefit since it was first authorized in 2016.

Organizations that work with wounded veterans say dozens, if not hundreds, more could be helped through a more robust, permanent program.

The Bob Woodruff Foundation has provided 32 grants totaling \$150,000 to veterans ineligible for the government benefit. That can include same-sex married couples, single female veterans and those with catastrophic injuries that destroyed their reproductive organs.

"We thought that once the VA picked that up, we could happily go out of business on that front," said Margaret Harrell, the foundation's program director. "As it turns out, we've not been able to do so because, although it is fabulous that the VA is currently providing IVF services, they have limited eligibility rules."



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MILITARY

SEAL's trial spurs talk of 'cracks' in justice system

By ANDREW DYER

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — The morning after he was found not guilty of murdering a wounded enemy prisoner in Iraq, Navy SEAL Chief Eddie Gallagher spoke on "Fox & Friends" about his advice for incoming SEALs: "You are there to watch your brother's back; he's there to watch you back — you just stay loyal."

That brotherhood was put to the test over the past year when members of Gallagher's platoon said their chief committed war crimes during a 2017 deployment in Iraq. Those reports led to a high-profile trial, which ended July 2.

Gallagher was found not guilty of murder, attempted murder and other charges. He was found guilty of one count related to posing with an enemy corpse.

Gallagher, who has proclaimed his innocence since his Sept. 11 arrest, accepted his punishment — a reduction of a rank, loss of two-thirds of base pay for the next two months and four months in custody, which he had already served.

Many are talking about whether the trial against Gallagher was fair and whether the system of military justice worked.

One member of Gallagher's platoon who testified for the prosecution said after the trial that he thought the case exposed flaws in the justice system.

"There was a crack that's been exposed, I say, but I don't know if that's unique to the military," the SEAL said. "The system isn't perfect — we've got to respect what happened." He spoke to the San Diego Union-Tribune on the condition of anonymity because of threats he said he has received for testifying.

'There was a crack that's been exposed, I say, but I don't know if that's unique to the military.'

anonymous member of Edward Gallagher's platoon who testified against him

One crack became obvious during the trial when, on the second day of witness testimony, a Navy SEAL, Petty Officer 1st Class, Corey Scott, testified that after Gallagher stabbed a wounded Islamic State fighter in the neck, Scott suffocated the fighter by covering his breathing tube.

His testimony that he, not Gallagher, killed the fighter stunned the courtroom.

Looking at Gallagher, Scott said he did not want to see him sent to prison.

Prosecutors accused Scott of lying. Later, they told the jury to convict Gallagher anyway because under the law, any action that contributed to the fighter's death warranted a murder conviction, even if it wasn't the fatal blow.

Defense lawyers said prosecutors didn't ask the right questions, didn't vet their witnesses and didn't conduct a thorough investigation.

"This should never have gotten to trial the way that it did," said lead defense attorney Timothy Parlatore.

Scott's testimony was given under immunity, but the Navy was considering charging Scott with perjury anyway, according to an official not authorized to

talk about the case.

It's unusual to have a prosecution witness damage their case, experts said.

"Typically, when somebody gives someone a grant of immunity, they know what they're going to testify to," said Gary Barthel, a military attorney who spent 20 years in the Marines, 16 of them as a Judge Advocate General lawyer.

"Here's the problem the (Navy) command has in prosecuting this witness: You have a jury who found Gallagher not guilty. You have to presume they found the witness' testimony credible. If that's the case, then he didn't commit perjury."

There were other faults found in the prosecution.

In May, days before trial was scheduled to begin, defense attorneys discovered that Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators and the lead prosecutor, Cmdr. Chris Zaplak, tried to track the emails of defense attorneys.

They were trying to find who leaked documents to a member of the news media.

The judge ruled their investigation illegal and removed Zaplak from the prosecution team. He also lowered the potential punishment Gallagher would face if he had been found guilty.

Another SEAL who testified against Gallagher said afterward that he didn't blame Zaplak for attempting to find the leak.

"Zaplak was just being aggressive," the SEAL said. "We had a reporter call up my friends and say, 'You better talk to me or I'm going to put your names in the paper.' I don't blame [Zaplak] at all."

The seal, who is from Gallagher's platoon, also asked his name be withheld for safety reasons.



GREGORY BULL/AP

Navy Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher and his wife, Andrea, smile after leaving a military court on Naval Base San Diego July 2. Gallagher's trial and acquittal on war crimes charges has some people questioning the military justice system.

Several witnesses against Gallagher said they've been threatened or are facing other fallout.

One SEAL who testified said he has obtained a permit to carry a concealed firearm due to death threats. Another, assigned to the elite SEAL Team 6, said that coming forward will likely mean he won't be deployed again.

Despite that, Barthel, the JAG lawyer, said he doesn't think the trial or its outcome will have a "chilling effect" on servicemembers reporting war crimes in the future.

"When people see something they think is wrong, they typically will report it," he said.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who has been a vocal advocate for Gallagher since his January arraignment, issued a lengthy statement after the verdict saying the case shouldn't have been prosecuted.

"On very circumstantial and limited physical evidence, the Navy felt it appropriate to charge Chief Gallagher with the murder of an ISIS terrorist," Hunter said. "The Navy's actions in this case are shameful, detrimental to good order and adversely affect the morale of our war fighters."

Barthel said the military jus-

tice system functioned appropriately in the Gallagher case.

"Just because someone was found not guilty doesn't mean the command shouldn't have brought the case," he said. Military commands are obligated to take reports seriously, he said.

"The government had certain facts made known to them and had a duty to investigate," Barthel said.

"Based on that, it went to a preliminary hearing, where the hearing officer determined there was probable cause. That's part of the process. People saying this shouldn't have been prosecuted don't understand the military justice system and are not giving the people or the process the respect they deserve," he said.

The process isn't over.

Gallagher's platoon commander, Lt. Jacob Portier, is charged with a number of offenses connected to the Gallagher case, including conduct unbecoming and failure to report war crimes allegations. Many of the witnesses who testified during Gallagher's trial are expected to testify in Portier's.

It is scheduled for Sept. 3. He has pleaded not guilty and denies all the charges.

2 Marines charged with transporting undocumented immigrants

By MEAGAN FLYNN

The Washington Post

Two Marines were charged in what federal officials say was an attempt to smuggle three undocumented Mexican immigrants through California after picking them up on the side of the interstate just north of the border.

Lance Cpl. Byron Darnell Law II and David Javier Salazar-Quintero, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif., were arraigned Monday in federal court on charges of transporting undocumented immigrants "for financial gain," accused of taking jobs from "recruiters" and following instructions from unknown people in Mexico to make extra cash on the side.

They are among several active-duty U.S. troops charged or con-

vinced in recent years of helping immigrants cross the border in exchange for money, highlighting how smugglers have sought to offer the shield of a uniform or credentials to assist desperate immigrants on the journey north.

Each previous case has largely followed the same rubric: A small group of immigrants is shepherded into the back seat of the car; the troops are caught during a traffic stop or at a routine checkpoint.

In this case, the Marines fell under suspicion on July 3 after a Border Patrol agent saw a black vehicle momentarily park in the dirt median of Interstate 8 near Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif.

Then he spotted footprints in the dirt seeming to lead toward

the car, according to a federal complaint. He thought the footprints might belong to migrants.

The agent radioed his colleagues to look out for the black BMW, and in a matter of minutes, the Marines were pulled over and asked for papers. The three men in the back seat, each from Mexico, admitted they were in the country illegally, according to the complaint.

In interviews with authorities, the Marines appeared to blame each other for how they ended up in trouble.

Law said it was Salazar-Quintero who offered him the job of picking up undocumented immigrants. Salazar-Quintero told agents that Law was the one who introduced him to the world of smuggling jobs, saying he met the

shoulder, the complaint says.

They finished the job, but didn't get paid for it, so they set out for another job the next day, Law said. This time Salazar-Quintero said his contact promised they would be paid.

Instead, they got arrested. The three immigrants Law and Salazar-Quintero allegedly tried to assist told authorities they expected to pay \$8,000 to be smuggled into the United States, though it's unclear whom they were paying.

Attorneys for the Marines did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A spokesman for the 1st Marine Division confirmed to the Marine Corps Times that both men are active-duty riflemen based in Camp Pendleton.

NATION



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

People examine a crack left in the road by an earthquake on Highway 178 Sunday near Ridgecrest, Calif. Tourists have been drawn to the highway since it was damaged in two earthquakes last week.

In Mojave Desert, earthquakes give Calif. new tourist attraction

Los Angeles Times

RIDGECREST, Calif. — Chris-tian Flores had traveled more than 200 miles, from San Diego to the Mojave Desert, to visit the latest Southern California tourist attraction.

There it was, on the hot asphalt of Highway 178 between Ridgecrest and Trona: a gnarly, surprisingly wide scar, courtesy of one very large earthquake. And just a few miles down the road lay another one — caused by a second, even larger and more terrifying quake.

Flores couldn't wait to upload what he saw on his YouTube channel.

Since the Fourth of July, tourists, geologists and students have converged on the once-desolate spot from far and wide, to see the ruptures on Highway 178 caused by last week's magnitude 6.4 and 7.1 earthquakes. The Grand Canyon is this is not — but the cracks were sizable enough to make visitors gape.

Trucks, minivans and sedans slowed down to park on the gravel lining the side of the highway. Families with young children hopped out. Researchers with GPS devices set up their machinery.

Others ventured into the brown shrubbery as they followed the surface ruptures into hilly terrain.

They held cameras and shot seismographs in the middle of the road. "I thought it would fare well online," Flores, 27, said of the cracks at the early evening sun descended over the mountains. "I mean, how often do you get an earthquake of this size?"

Flores picked up rocks he had found on the surface rupture as souvenirs and placed them gently in the back of his car trunk.

Michelle Binion, 56, marveled at the rupture caused by the first quake.

She had driven with her husband to the area from Rancho Cucamonga, determined to see the evidence of nature's power.

"This is absolutely worth the drive," she said with a smile. "I think as human beings we like to live on the edge. This fault really shows you just how vulnerable we are."

Some of the cracks traveled across the highway and into the desert landscape on either side.

It has been about 20 years since scientists have seen a quake of this magnitude in California, said Cynthia Prudmone, of the California Earthquake Clearinghouse — a website where experts and quake novices can share their observations.

The clearinghouse has heard from researchers who believe that the most notable surface rupture discovered so far — caused by the 7.1 quake that hit Friday — could measure about 28 miles in length.

But that won't be known until

U.S. Geological Survey and California Geological Survey scientists who have access to the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake report back.

Quakes raise new interest in warning system

By JOHN ANTICZAK AND
CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The powerful Mojave Desert earthquakes that rocked California ended a yearslong lull in major seismic activity and raised new interest in an early warning system being developed for the West Coast.

The ShakeAlert system is substantially built in California and overall is about 55% complete, with much of the remaining installation of seismic sensor stations to be done in the Pacific Northwest, said Robert de Groot, of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Areas that have the appropriate number of sensors include Southern California, San Francisco Bay Area and the Seattle-Tacoma region, de Groot said.

The system does not predict

earthquakes. Rather, it detects that an earthquake is occurring, rapidly calculates expected intensity levels and sends out alerts that may give warnings ranging from several seconds to perhaps a minute before potentially damaging shaking hits locations away from the epicenter.

Depending on the distance, that could be enough time to automatically slow trains, stop industrial machines, start generators, pull a surgical knife away from a patient or tell students to put the "drop, cover and hold" drill into action.

For alerts to be useful, delivery has to be timely, and that's a problem with current cellphone technology. For cellphone delivery, the USGS ultimately intends to use the same system that delivers Amber Alerts, sending signals to everyone in reach of cellphone towers in defined areas where

damaging shaking is expected.

Pilot programs involving select users have been underway for several years. In October, the USGS announced the system was ready to be used broadly by businesses, utilities, schools and other entities following a software update that reduced problems such as false alerts typically caused by a big quake somewhere in the world being misidentified as a local quake.

Currently, the only mass public notification is possible through a mobile app developed for the city of Los Angeles and functional only within Los Angeles County.

The ShakeAlert LA app did not send alerts for last week's two big quakes, but officials said it functioned as designed because the expected level of shaking in the LA area — more than 100 miles from the epicenters — was below a trigger threshold.

Thresholds for alerting are important because California has daily earthquakes.

"Imagine getting 10 ShakeAlerts on your phone for really small earthquakes that may not affect you," de Groot said. "If people get saturated with these messages it's going to make people not care as much."

In the Mojave Desert on Monday, rattled residents cleaned up and officials assessed damage in the aftermath of Thursday's magnitude 6.4 earthquake and Friday's magnitude 7.1 quake centered near Ridgecrest.

President Donald Trump on Monday declared an emergency exists in California because of the quakes, paving the way for federal aid. The declaration authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts.

Edwards Air Force Base tower damaged during earthquake

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A tower at an off-base plant that supports operations at Edwards Air Force Base sustained damage Friday during the magnitude 7.1 earthquake in southern California, base officials confirmed.

Air operations have continued at the site despite the damage, Brig. Gen. John Teichert, commander of the base's 412th Test Wing, said in a video posted to social media.

The tower is at a site known as Plant 42, about 30 miles south of Edwards in Palmdale. The plant supports some NASA operations and is home to large contractors

such as Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

Plant 42 employs about 9,000 people. Edwards is home to the Air Force Flight Test Center.

After assessing damage at the Air Force base, teams from Edwards on Saturday traveled about 70 miles north to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, where the earthquake was centered and caused enough damage to render the base "not mission capable," according a Navy statement.

When the earthquake struck, China Lake was already closed and crews were cleaning up from a magnitude 6.4 earthquake Thursday, which was also cen-

tered at fault lines on the base, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The support teams from Edwards included firefighters, electricians, plumbers and structural engineers, Teichert said.

Officials at China Lake, which authorized the evacuation of non-essential personnel last week, are about 10% complete with their assessment of about 1,200 facilities stretched across the base's 1.2 million acres, said Helen Haase, spokeswoman with Navy Region Southwest. China Lake is the Navy's largest single land holding.

Roads at the base are still dis-

placed and traveling there is difficult, she said. Inside buildings, furniture, computers and office supplies are strewn about. Some utilities will need repair, Haase said. "The commissary is the typical Hollywood movie — shelves down and products everywhere," she said.

The commander of China Lake, Capt. Paul Dale, briefly spoke Saturday at a news conference.

Dale said he did not have any specifics on damage to the base because they were only in the initial assessment phase. However, he did say all weapons on the base are secure."

The news conference was held

in Ridgecrest, where many personnel who work at Edwards and China Lake live, and included California Gov. Gavin Newsom. He discussed the efforts to get China Lake operational again.

"I don't think there's a more important economic activity than to get those folks back to work and the base back up," Newsom said, adding that it provides 86% of the town's economic activity.

It has not yet been determined when more personnel will be permitted on the base or the evacuation order will be lifted, Haase said.

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NATION

Report of ICE use of license photos upsets activists

BY FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

BOSTON — Civil rights activists complained Monday of the potential for widespread abuse following confirmation that at least three states have scanned millions of driver's license photos on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement without the drivers' knowledge or consent.

Public records obtained by the Georgetown Law Center on Privacy and Technology provided the first proof that ICE had sought such scans, which were conducted in Utah, Vermont and Washington.

All three states — which offer driving privileges to immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally — agreed to the ICE requests, according to documents shared with The Associated Press on Monday and first reported by The Washington Post.

"States asked undocumented people to come out of the shadows to get licenses. Then they turn around and uses that to find

them," Alvaro Bedoya, the center's director, said Monday.

ICE spokesman Matthew Bourke did not directly address written questions, including whether the agency used the scans to arrest or deport anyone.

"During the course of an investigation, ICE has the ability to collaborate with external local, federal and international agencies to obtain information that may assist in case completion and prosecution efforts," Bourke said in a written response.

At least two cases in Utah and one in Washington state appeared to involve immigration enforcement, but the majority of requests from ICE in Utah were from its Homeland Security Investigations division, which has a limited role in immigration enforcement.

The documents for Vermont and Washington involved a handful of records. The Utah document obtained by Georgetown was a ledger with details on more than 1,800 cases spanning two years of requests from multiple agencies, including other states, the FBI



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Immigrants who entered the United States illegally are deported to El Salvador on a November flight from Houston. Public records showing states have scanned millions of driver's license photos for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials caused an uproar from civil rights activists Monday.

and the State Department.

The use of facial recognition by state, federal and local law enforcement agencies has grown over the past decade as an FBI pilot project evolved.

Twenty-one states and Washington, D.C., let the FBI access their drivers' licenses and identification photos, according to a Government Accountability Office report published last month.

One major concern of activists is that the technology could be abused in the Trump administration crackdown on immigration. Shankar Narayan, director of the technology and liberty project at the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, said federal agencies "are seeing a huge op-

portunity to use technologies ... to enforce immigration statutes in a way that was never intended."

In July 2017, Georgetown researchers filed Freedom of Information Act requests with every state seeking documents on how they responded to requests for facial recognition information from law enforcement agencies, Bedoya said.

Many states ignored or denied the requests. Utah, Vermont and Washington provided useful responses.

In Utah, ICE asked to search the database containing license images 49 times between October 2015 and November 2017, said Department of Safety spokeswoman Marissa Cote.

No search warrant or subpoena was required, but all searches involved potential criminal suspects, she said.

The state does not run searches for people whose only infraction is living in the country without proper documentation, Cote said.

A spokeswoman for Vermont's Republican governor, Phil Scott, said Vermont officials stopped sharing facial recognition information with federal immigration authorities in May 2017.

In Washington state, the Department of Licensing said it has not received a facial recognition request since 2017 and noted that as of 2018, all requests must be court-ordered.

Chaotic Va. session on gun control bill ends without a vote

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Less than two hours after beginning a special session called in response to a mass shooting, Virginia lawmakers abruptly adjourned Tuesday without taking any action and postponed any movement on gun control until after the November election.

The session, gun violence called by Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam got off to a chaotic start, with the Republican Senate majority leader averting a mutiny in the GOP caucus by publicly disavowing a gun control bill he had proposed only the day before.

Lawmakers were summoned to the Capitol to consider a package of eight gun control measures proposed by Northam, who has called for "votes and laws, not thoughts and prayers" in response to the killing of a dozen people by a city worker in Virginia Beach in late May.

House Speaker Kirk Cox said the session was premature because the shooting is still being investigated.

"The whole thing is just an election-year stunt," Cox said.

Senate Majority Leader Tommy Norment shocked his fellow Republicans by filing surprise legislation Monday to broadly ban guns in any government building statewide. It prompted an immediate backlash in the GOP caucus, which controls the chamber by a slim 20-19 advantage. His top vote counter, Sen. Bill Staley, resigned as majority whip in protest.

"Sometimes you just got to stand for principle," Stanley said.

But the departure did not last long. Stanley said Norment apologized during a Senate caucus meeting shortly before the session started and asked Stanley to reconsider his resignation. Stanley said he was the sole vote against himself when the caucus restored him as majority whip.

Norment — who is married to a lobbyist for the city of Virginia Beach — then announced that he was spiking his own bill and would not support "any measure that restricts the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens."

If Republicans had remained unified, Northam's package of bills stood little chance of passage. The GOP holds a wider major-



STEVE HELBER/AP

Gypsy Gonzalez, right, and Adam Root carry weapons and a photo that was in the Virginia governor's yearbook during a Richmond, Va., rally Tuesday against a package of gun control proposals.

ity in the House, where Republicans have accused the governor of trying to exploit the tragedy for political gain. Rather than approve gun controls, they signaled a focus on increasing penalties for wrongdoers after gun crimes have been committed.

Outside the Capitol, Northam led a group of gun control supporters in chants of "Enough is Enough!"

Gun control supporters began their demonstration on Capitol Square by reading out the names of the state's recent gun violence victims, including those in Virginia Beach. Northam then led them in the "Enough is Enough!" chant.

chant that has become a refrain against gun violence at rallies nationwide in the wake of repeated mass shootings. Others carried signs decrying the killings of children, and shouted "You vote today, we vote in November."

"Hopefully, we'll be heard and the Virginia Legislature will take action to enact sensible gun laws," said Jeff Wells, 64, his voice hoarse from chanting.

A smaller group of gun rights advocates rallied across the Capitol lawn. They said many others were inside meeting with lawmakers and that a larger rally was planned Tuesday afternoon.

Pelosi seeks to rally Dems over border

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers must pass legislation easing "abhorrent conditions" facing children held at the southern border, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday as she tried taking the offensive on an issue that badly split Democrats and has raised questions about their unity on other issues.

Pelosi, D-Calif., tried rallying Democrats against a common foe — Republicans led by President Donald Trump — less than two weeks after a \$4.6 billion border bill drove a bitter rift into her party. Although the measure passed Congress easily and became law, many House progressives and Hispanics voted "no" because they said the measure lacked real controls on how the government must handle children, while the party's moderates and senators said the measure was the best compromise they could craft with the GOP-run Senate.

In a letter to colleagues returning from an 11-day Fourth of July recess, Pelosi said Democrats must lead "a Battle Cry across America to protect the children." She highlighted measures that Democrats have pushed regarding border conditions and care.

NATION

President ramps up criticism of Fox News

By DAVID BAUDER
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — During a live segment on a cable news network, from a sports bar in France where patrons were celebrating the United States women's World Cup Championship, a profane chant about President Donald Trump broke out.

The First Viewer was not pleased.

But the object of his ire was not CNN or MSNBC. It was his favorite outlet, Fox News Channel, and the president issued a not-so-veiled threat about the network's programming.

No president has been so closely aligned with a single news outlet as Trump is with Fox News, so his criticism carried added significance. While it was not the first time he has singled out Fox, it was the most pointed, raising the question of how the network and the president's supporters would respond.

Trump on Sunday night wrote that watching Fox on the weekend was worse than watching CNN and MSNBC, outlets he fre-



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

A Fox News reporter speaks on camera July 3 next to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle near the Lincoln Memorial for President Donald Trump's "Salute to America" event. Trump is accusing Fox of "loading up with Democrats."

quently attacks. He said Fox is "loading up with Democrats" and criticized the network for using The New York Times as a source for a story. He also attacked Fox for hiring former Democratic National Committee head Donna Brazile as a contributor and poked at afternoon host Shepard Smith's ratings.

"Fox News is changing fast, but they forgot the people who got them there," Trump wrote.

Fox did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

While it was not clear what Trump was specifically responding to, he was particularly annoyed by Fox correspondent Greg Palast's live report from a sports bar in France, where patrons erupted in a "F--- Trump" chant, according to two advisers not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

Fox also aired two segments

about immigration Sunday that used as a hook a Times story that said workers at a child detention center in Texas are "grappling with the stuff of nightmares," according to Matthew Gertz, of the liberal watchdog Media Matters for America.

By some measures, Trump has never been closer to Fox News, or at least their evening hosts. He regularly calls into Sean Hannity's show, touts Laura Ingraham's program and, last month, frequently consulted off-air with Tucker Carlson, who strongly opposes military action against Iran.

A few days later, Carlson was spotted among Trump's entourage during the president's visit to the demilitarized zone between North Korea and South Korea. Carlson traveled with Trump for an interview that was shown on Fox.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., hold up signs as they await her arrival in Peterborough, N.H., on Monday. Warren's campaign reported she has raised more money than all but two of her Democratic rivals.

Warren raises \$19.1M, topping Sanders

By ELANA SCHOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Warren raised \$19.1 million in the second quarter, her campaign said Monday, cementing her status in the top tier of Democratic presidential contenders and surpassing Bernie Sanders, her main liberal rival.

The strong showing leaves the Massachusetts senator behind only Pete Buttigieg, the South Bend, Ind., mayor who reported nearly \$25 million, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who has tallied \$21.5 million since his candidacy began in late April.

Perhaps most notably, Warren raised more money than Sanders, who is also vying for liberal voters and is the only other candidate who has joined her in swearing off high-dollar fundraisers.

The strong showing signals the grip Warren is gaining over the party's progressive base. Sanders easily won over those voters during the 2016 presidential primary as the sole liberal alternative to Hillary Clinton. But he faces more competition during his second run, and Warren's steady stream of ambitious policy plans may come at his expense.

"To sum it up: We raised more money than any other 100%

grassroots-funded campaign," Roger Lau, Warren's campaign manager, said in a glancing reference to Sanders. "That's big."

Warren more than tripled the \$6 million she raised in the first three months of 2019, when she silenced some skeptics of her long-term fundraising viability following her decision to rely on grassroots rather than high-dollar donations.

The campaign's \$19.1 million came from more than 384,000 contributors giving more than \$63,000 donations.

More than 80% of Warren's second-quarter donors were first-time contributors.

Marine aviator to run for Kentucky US Senate seat

By MICHAEL TACKETT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amy McGrath, a Marine combat aviator who narrowly lost a House race to an incumbent Republican in Kentucky, has set her sights on an even more formidable target: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

McGrath, whose campaign announcement video in her House race showcased the viral power of social media to raise money and national profile, said Tuesday she will be trying to defeat one of the most entrenched officials in Washington in McConnell. But she sees him as vulnerable because of his lengthy tenure in Washington, his stance on health care and his taut allegiance to the policies of President Donald Trump.

Her decision to enter the race represents a rare victory for Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, of New York, who has had difficulty persuading top-tier candidates in other states to take on incumbent Republicans with control of the Senate at stake.

The contest also will test the power of incumbency against a call for generational change, along with a measure of whether Trump's popularity is transferable.

McGrath, 44, will almost certainly be able to raise enough money to mount a serious challenge to McConnell, 77, but she is still a decided underdog in a state that has not elected a Democrat to the Senate since Wendell Ford in 1992.

"I've been always somebody who stepped up to the plate when asked, when I felt like my country needed me, and this is one of those times," McGrath said in an interview.

She is attempting to repeat her viral moment with a new video,

one that leans hard on idealism while also attacking McConnell as the embodiment of a dysfunctional Washington.

"I feel like somebody needs to stand up to him," McGrath said.

McGrath also represents one element of her first video, pointedly noting that when, as a 13-year-old girl, she wrote to McConnell



McGrath

to make the case that women should be able to fly in combat, the senator never wrote back.

But her attacks on McConnell and his record carry risks because Trump remains highly popular in Kentucky, and McConnell has pushed through much of the president's agenda and, perhaps more importantly, his nominees to federal courts, including Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

She said Kentucky voters are not fans of either political party and they supported Trump in part because of his promise to "drain the swamp" in Washington, lower drug prices and deliver a more effective alternative to the Affordable Care Act.

"Those things haven't happened because of guys like Senator McConnell," she said.

McGrath struck back quickly in a Twitter message that pre-saged what a race between him and McGrath would look like. The tweet strung together a series of quotes from McGrath that depicts her as an out-of-touch liberal who also opposes Trump, notably his call for a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

McGrath lost to Rep. Andy Barr by 3 percentage points in the 2018 midterm election

Jill Biden says Americans know that Joe is not racist

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jill Biden says the American people "didn't buy" any insinuation during the Democratic presidential debate that her husband, former Vice President Joe Biden, is racist.

In an interview that aired Monday on CNN, the former second lady was asked about Sen. Kamala Harris' comments last month.

The California senator started out by saying she didn't think Joe Biden was racist, but he criti-

cized him for defending his work with segregationist senators and for opposing mandatory busing of students to desegregated public schools.

Jill Biden said as soon as she heard the words, "I do not believe you are a racist," she thought, "Uh oh, what's coming next?"

She said, "The American people know Joe Biden. They know his values. They know what he stands for. And they didn't buy it."

NATION

Paddle boarders help clean up at Biscayne park

BY AMANDA ROSA
The Miami Herald

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK, Fla. — The mangroves at Biscayne National Park are home to everything from baby fish to crabs — and, unfortunately, an awful lot of trash. Now, a small fleet of volunteers on paddleboards are trying to clean things up.

After a month of weekly trips, the cleanup crews already have pulled 767 pounds of plastic, rope, fishing twine and other marine debris out of the water.

Biscayne National Park Institute, a Florida National Parks Association entity that provides educational programs and boat tours, takes volunteers around beaches, sea turtle nests and along mangrove shorelines every Tuesday and the last Saturday of the month.

The volunteer response has been strong and most of the Tuesday trips are booked for about two months out, said Frank Castillo, a Biscayne National Park Institute



Volunteers Rebekah Valle, left, and her mother, Elizabeth Valle, weigh the debris they helped retrieve.

naturalist and first mate. A boat carrying paddle boats, buckets and life jackets can take only up to 12 people on the cleanup trip, and spots fill fast.

"We're going to go try to make a difference today," Castillo told



Abigail Valle carries a large piece of styrofoam on her paddle board as she joins volunteers for Biscayne National Park Institute in removing marine debris from sensitive coastal habitats July 2 in Homestead, Fla.

PHOTOS BY AL DIAZ, MIAMI HERALD/AP

the volunteers on a recent outing.

As the boat approached a mangrove shoreline, he talked about some not-so-fun facts about water pollution: Polluted water puts South Florida's diverse marine life at risk. Animals that eat plastic die painful deaths. Trash swept away in ocean currents ends up in "garbage islands" the size of Texas. There will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050.

But there's hope, Castillo said. While Florida lawmakers push for single-use plastic and straw bans, residents can get involved to protect the national park in their backyard. The debris cleanup trip is free and open to anyone

capable of paddleboarding and lifting objects.

At first glance, it's hard to spot trash until paddling closer to the trees. A plastic shed bobbed in the water before volunteers dragged it out. It probably blew into the mangroves after a hurricane, Castillo said.

Volunteers came back with buckets full of old rope and a block of Styrofoam the size of a minifridge. Castillo balanced a moldy plastic oil tank on his board.

Samantha Seco, who owns Bolt Training in Homestead, joined some of her gym members on the trip for the first time. She found fishing line, a makeshift dive flag, a cooler "full of crap," deflated

balloons and a tangled mess of rope filled with baby crabs and shrimp.

After an hour and a half of paddling, the group had collected 167 pounds of trash. But it didn't go to a landfill; Gabrielle Barrocas took it with her.

Barrocas, a South Florida National Parks Trust ambassador, is building a maze out of trash to raise awareness of plastic consumption and pollution. She gathers usable garbage from cleanups, rinses it off and puts it inside mesh walls.

She hopes to have the maze done by the fall and to set it up in a public space.

Publishers say tariffs could cause a shortage of Bibles

BY TRAVIS LOLLER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Religious publishers say President Donald Trump's most recent proposed tariffs on Chinese imports could result in a Bible shortage.

That's because millions of Bibles — some estimates put it at 150 million or more — are printed in China each year. Critics of a proposed tariff say it would make the Bibles more expensive for consumers and hurt the evangelism efforts of Christian organizations that give away Bibles as part of

their ministry.

HarperCollins Christian Publishing President and CEO Mark Schoenwald recently told the U.S. trade representative that the company believes the Trump administration "never intended to impose a 'Bible Tax' on consumers and religious organizations," according to a transcript of his remarks provided by the publisher.

The two largest Bible publishers in the United States, Zondervan and Thomas Nelson, are owned by HarperCollins, and they incur close to 75% of their Bible manufacturing expenses in China,

Schoenwald said. Together, they command 38% of the American Bible market, he said.

The full size of that market is difficult to gauge. A spokeswoman at HarperCollins said they believe around 20 million Bibles are sold in the U.S. each year.

The NDP group, which includes NPD BookScan and PubTrack Digital, captured 5.7 million print Bible sales in the U.S. in 2018. But that figure doesn't capture all sales, including the large number of Bibles sold by publishers directly to congregations.

The proposed 25% tariff would apply to all books, but critics say it would disproportionately affect Bibles and children's books. Both tend to have specialized printing requirements that Chinese printers are set up to meet while many domestic printers are not.

Bible Society, the International Bible Society, is a charitable religious organization that gives away Bibles to people in 55 countries. China represents 72% of the group's investment in Bible publishing, according to Biblica President and CEO Geoff Morin.

A Bible tariff would "dramatically affect the number of Bibles

we are able to print and give away, impacting the religious freedom of individuals in countries where Bible access is limited and often nonexistent," Morin said in testimony to the trade representative.

The critics also argue that a tariff on books would not advance the purported goals of the tariff, to stop the Chinese from acquiring American technology, trade secrets and intellectual property.

For now, the publishers and other Bible distributors must simply wait to see if their pleas will be answered.

Poll: Most in US rarely seek guidance from religious leaders

BY JEFF KAROUR
Associated Press

DETROIT — Timothy Buchanan says he never consults clergy about important decisions, but it's not for lack of faith. He regularly attends a nondenominational Christian church near his home.

Buchanan, 41, is not alone. A large majority of Americans make important decisions without calling on religious leaders for advice, according to a new survey released Monday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll found that three-quarters of

American adults rarely or never consult a clergy member or religious leader, while only about a quarter do so at least some of the time.

"The church we go to is quite large, and we're relatively new there," said Buchanan, who lives with his wife in Bolivia, N.C. "We really haven't established a relationship with a minister there."

"Going to larger churches, it's nearly impossible now to get a relationship with a clergyman or woman."

The lack of personal connection with ministers even includes people who identify with a specific religious faith, though

those who are most engaged with their faith are more likely to have relationships with clergy.

The poll finds about a third of Americans saying they attend church or other religious services at least twice a month; roughly a quarter never go.

Among religious adults who attend services at least twice a month, about half say they sometimes or often consult with a religious leader. That compares with 16% of religious adults who attend services less often.

Experts say the clergy sex abuse crisis confronting the Roman Catholic Church

also could be taking a toll on consultations between parishioners and priests. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, about a quarter of U.S. Catholics said the crisis had led them to reduce their attendance at Mass and their donations to the church.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,137 adults was conducted May 17-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

NATION

Barr raps Dems over subpoena of Mueller

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

EDGEFIELD, S.C. — Attorney General William Barr on Monday accused Democrats of trying to create a "public spectacle" by subpoenaing special counsel Robert Mueller to testify before Congress about the Russia investigation.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said the Justice Department would support Mueller if he decides he "doesn't want to subject himself" to congressional testimony. Barr also said the Justice Department would seek to block any attempt by Congress to subpoena members of the special counsel's team.

There's no indication that Mueller does not wish to appear before Congress on July 17. But he put lawmakers on notice that any testimony he gives will not go beyond his 448-page report that was released in April. At a news conference in May, Mueller said the team chose the words in the report carefully and that the work speaks for itself.

"I'm not sure what purpose is served by dragging him up there and trying to grill him," Barr said. "I don't think Mueller should be treated that way or subject himself to that if he doesn't want to."

Mueller no longer works for the Justice Department, but the department could attempt to limit his testimony about decisions he made as special counsel.

Barr spoke to the AP on Monday in South Carolina, where he visited a prison to discuss the criminal justice reform Trump signed into law last year.

Democrats have criticized Barr, saying he acts more like the president's personal lawyer than the attorney general. Barr enthusiastically embraced Trump's political agenda, cast Mueller's



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Attorney General William Barr, shown before touring the Edgefield Federal Correctional Institution in Edgefield, S.C., on Monday, criticized Democrats for calling special counsel Robert Mueller to testify before Congress.

report as a vindication for the president and launched an investigation into the origins of the probe — something Trump has repeatedly said should happen.

Barr said the investigation is ongoing and that, from what he's seen so far, it is "essential to take a deeper look at how things unfolded."

He said he has not received a satisfactory answer about why a counterintelligence investigation was opened on the Trump campaign or whether there would've been a less drastic measure that could've been taken at the time.

Mueller's report detailed extensive Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, but he did not find a criminal conspira-

cy between the Trump campaign and Moscow. He did not recommend charging any Trump associates as agents of the Russian government or with campaign finance violations.

The report also outlined several instances where Trump tried to influence the investigation but people around him either refused or quietly allowed the matters to drop.

Mueller pointedly said he would have exonerated Trump if he could have but did not. He also cited Justice Department guidelines that say a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Mueller will appear before lawmakers in both public and private sessions later this month.

Dems want Acosta to quit for role in financier's sex plea

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

convicted

Schumer said on the Senate floor that the evidence against Epstein in 2008 was overwhelming, and he expressed incredulity that Acosta was able to agree to an arrangement that let him avoid prison.

He said Acosta should step aside and Trump should fire him if he does not.

"This is not acceptable," he said.

We cannot have as one of the leading officials in America someone who has done this."

Klobuchar tweeted, "Since when do underage-girl sex ring traffickers get to go to their office every day while they serve their time?"

Under the 2008 deal, Epstein pleaded guilty to state charges of soliciting a minor for prostitution and served 13 months in jail, during which he was allowed out to go to his office during the day.

Referring to the labor secretary's past, Gillibrand told a reporter in Manchester, N.H., that Acosta "never should have been there in the first place."

Trump had called Epstein a "terrific guy" in a New York Magazine article in 2002 and said he'd known the financier for 15 years.

"He's a lot of fun to be with," Trump was quoted as saying. "It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it — Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

Latest 'Obamacare' battle plays out in New Orleans appeals court

By KEVIN MCGILL
AND REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The fate of former President Barack Obama's signature health care law and its coverage and insurance protections for millions of Americans is again being argued before a panel of judges — this time a federal appeals court in New Orleans.

At issue in a hearing scheduled Tuesday by a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was whether Congress effectively rendered it unconstitutional in 2017 when it zeroed out the tax imposed on those who chose not to buy insurance. Texas-based U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor declared in December that it did. The law's supporters appealed.

It's unclear when the panel will rule in a case that appears destined for the

Supreme Court, which has reviewed the law before. The ultimate outcome will affect protections for people with pre-existing conditions; Medicaid expansions covering roughly 12 million people; and subsidies that help about 10 million others afford health insurance.

Tuesday's arguments are the latest in a lawsuit filed by Republican officials in 18 states, led by the Texas Attorney General's Office. It was filed after Congress — which didn't repeal the law despite pressure from President Donald Trump — reduced to zero the unpopular tax imposed on those without insurance.

In challenging the law anew, "Obamacare" opponents noted the 2012 ruling of a divided Supreme Court that upheld the law. Conservative justices had rejected the argument that Congress could require everyone to buy insurance under the Constitution's interstate commerce clause.

But Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by four liberal justices, said Congress did have the power to impose a tax on those without insurance.

With no tax penalty now in effect, the Texas lawsuit argues, the individual mandate is unconstitutional and the entire law must fall without it. O'Connor, the federal judge in Texas, agreed in a December ruling.

In addition to the 18 states, two individual taxpayers are part of the lawsuit. The Trump administration is not defending the law and has filed arguments in favor of O'Connor's ruling.

California's attorney general represents a coalition of mostly Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia seeking to overturn O'Connor's ruling and uphold the law. The House of Representatives has joined them.

Among the arguments by the law's sup-

porters are that those who filed suit have no case because they aren't harmed by a penalty that doesn't exist; the reduction of the tax penalty to zero could be read as a suspension of the tax but the tax's legal structure still exists; and that even if the individual mandate is now unconstitutional, that does not affect the rest of the law known as the Affordable Care Act.

When the law was proposed, friends and foes of "Obamacare" agreed that the tax was essential to persuade healthy people to get insured, thereby keeping premiums in check. But this year — the first time no fines will be collected — the number of people signing up for subsidized private insurance through the Affordable Care Act slipped only slightly.

Scheduled to hear Tuesday's arguments were 5th Circuit Judges Carolyn Dineen King, Jennifer Walker Ebrod and Kurt Engelhardt.

NATION

Post-hurricane NC mobile home rents soar

By AMANDA MORRIS
Associated Press

LUMBERTON, N.C. — For eight years, James Lesane paid what he could for his mobile home lot rental every month — \$150. But in February, five months after Hurricane Florence flooded the Lumberton region and shortly after Florida-based company Time Out Communities bought the park, his monthly lot rental more than tripled to \$465.

With a fixed Social Security disability income of about \$791 a month, Lesane said it's impossible for him to pay that.

"If I had to pay \$465 I couldn't even pay the lights in this place," he said, gesturing to the dim lighting inside his trailer, where trash bags covered windows to keep the trailer cool on a sweltering 100-degree day.

Time Out owns 23 properties in low-income Robeson County, many of which were bought in the past two years. At the same time, the county was one of the hardest-hit areas during hurricanes Matthew in 2016 and Florence in 2018. All but two of the properties are in Lumberton, where residents say an affordable housing crisis caused by the hurricanes has been exacerbated by Time Out, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based company.

In an emailed statement, Time Out said rents were raised consistent with current market rates and that some of the additional revenue will go toward community improvement.

North Carolina Housing Coalition Executive Director Samuel



PHOTOS BY GERRY BROOME/AP

Homes at the Alamac Time Out community in Lumberton, N.C., are shown in May. Over the past two years, Time Out Communities has bought 21 properties in Robeson County, a low income-county that was one of the hardest-hit in hurricanes Matthew in 2016 and Florence in 2018.

Gunter said it's not uncommon to see property investors "start snatching stuff up" after a disaster because they see a chance to make money.

"In the aftermath of a disaster, folks are flooded, those land values are depressed, and if you have capital, there's economic opportunity there," Gunter said, adding that lower-income communities often live in disaster-prone areas such as flood plains.

Gunter said many advocates are worried about the dynamic between mobile home owners who rent land in these parks and park owners, since older mobile homes often can't be moved.

"People may not be able to move their homes, so you have incredible leverage over the people

who rent that land," he said.

Time Out owns more than 1,200 home unit rental lots in Lumberton, where residents live in a total of 1,416 mobile home units, according to the 2017 American Community Survey figures from the U.S. Census bureau. In Lumberton, 13.5% of the population lives in mobile homes, more than double the national average.

For many, mobile homes may be the only affordable option after the county was devastated by hurricanes. There's not enough rental stock to accommodate people who have been displaced by the hurricanes, placing a strain on affordable housing resources, according to Gunter.

The Robeson County Affordable Housing Coalition, formed

in October 2018 after Hurricane Florence, has asked local officials to take action on Time Out's rental increases and asked the town to set up a rental assistance and transitional housing fund. Coalition administrator Mac Legerton said the local government response has been limited.

"Their capacity to respond is limited due to the lack of laws and authority over a private business," he said. "We're forming an interagency task force to review what laws are needed in North Carolina and across the nation.... This business model is certainly unethical and immoral, and it should be illegal."

Lumberton city officials could not be reached for comment.

Because of the housing short-



Every month, resident James Lesane pays what he can afford for his Lumberton mobile home lot rental: \$150. After Time Out Communities bought the park, he learned that monthly payment will rise to \$465.

age, Gunter said entire communities are being displaced.

Lesane said he is leaving, and so are a lot of his neighbors. But before he can leave, Lesane needs several thousand dollars to move his home. So far, he said he's saved about \$800 and deposited \$100 to hold a lot spot in a mobile home park down the road.

"The whole place is a flood zone," he said. "I'm worried about that, but that's the only place to live."

In the meantime, he pays what rent he can and prays he won't be evicted.

Billionaire, '92 presidential candidate Perot dies at 89

Associated Press

DALLAS — H. Ross Perot, the colorful, self-made Texas billionaire who rose from a childhood of Depression-era poverty and twice ran for president as a third-party candidate, has died. He was 89.

Perot, whose 19% of the vote in 1992 stands among the best showings by an independent candidate in the past century, died early Tuesday at his home in Dallas surrounded by his devoted family, family spokesman James Fuller said.

As a boy in Texarkana, Texas, Perot delivered newspapers from the back of a pony. He earned his billions in a more modern way, however — by building Electronic Data Systems Corp., which helped other companies manage their computer networks.

Yet the most famous event in his career didn't involve sales and earnings; he financed a private commando raid in 1979 to free two EDS employees who were being held in a prison in Iran. The tale was turned into a book and a movie.

Perot spent \$63.5 million of his own money and bought up 30-minute television spots. He used charts and graphs to make his points, summarizing them with a line



Ross Perot, a billionaire who ran for president, died Tuesday at 89. He is shown at a ceremony in Quantico, Va., in 2005.

that became a national catchphrase: "It's just that simple."

Perot's second campaign four years later was far less successful.

Ban makes VA facilities smoke-free by October

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A smoking ban is set to go into effect at Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities across the country starting Oct. 1 — more than 25 years after such bans became the norm at other American hospitals.

The smoke-free policy applies to patients, visitors, volunteers, contractors and vendors at VA facilities, and it prohibits cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vape pens and e-cigarettes. The VA announced the change earlier in the summer, citing "growing evidence" that smoking, as well as secondhand and thirdhand smoke, is a medical and safety risk.

Anyone caught violating the policy could be subject to a \$50 fine.

"This policy change coincides with additional ... efforts to help us become the provider of choice for veterans and the reason why veterans will choose VA," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a statement.

Smoking has remained permis-

sible at VA facilities because of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992, a federal mandate requiring the VA to establish designated smoking areas. When other hospitals began implementing smoking bans in the early 1990s — and when other federal facilities shuttered their designated smoking areas in 2009 — the Veterans Health Care Act was cited as a reason the VA couldn't do the same.

A study published in the American Journal of Public Health in 2013 contends the tobacco industry manipulated veterans organizations and Congress to create the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 after the first VA secretary, Ed Derwinski, announced in 1990 his intention to prohibit smoking inside VA facilities.

The new policy calls for all designated smoking areas to be dismantled. At the latest count, there were nearly 1,000 outdoor smoking areas at VA hospitals, clinics and nursing homes nationwide, as well as 15 indoor smoking areas.

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SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Future of food

Number of startups making meat in labs that doesn't require slaughtering animals

By TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

EMERYVILLE, Calif. — Uma Valeti sliced into a pan-fried chicken cutlet in the kitchen of his startup, Memphis Meats. He sniffed the tender morsel on his fork before taking a bite. He chewed slowly, absorbing the taste.

"Our chicken is chicken ... you've got to taste it to believe it," Valeti said.

This is no ordinary piece of poultry. No chicken was raised or slaughtered to harvest the meat. It was produced in a laboratory by extracting

cells from a chicken and feeding them in a nutrient broth until the cell culture grew into raw meat.

Memphis Meats, based in Emeryville, Calif., is one of a growing number of startups worldwide that are making cell-based or cultured meat. They want to offer an alternative to traditional meat production that they say is damaging the environment and causing unnecessary harm to animals, but they are far from becoming mainstream and face pushback from livestock producers.

"You are ultimately going to continue the choice of eating meat for many generations to come without putting undue stress on the planet," said Valeti, a former cardiologist who co-founded Memphis Meats in 2015 after seeing the power of stem cells to treat disease.

The company, which also has produced cell-grown beef and duck, has attracted investments from food giants Cargill and Tyson Foods as well as billionaires Richard Branson and Bill

NATION

Mexican muralist brings his talent to Texas

By ROYAL MCGREGOR
Odessa American

ODESSA, Texas — During his adolescence Benito Mendoza volunteered to spray-paint the symbol that was used by his neighborhood gang on the south side of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

The Odessa American reported that Mendoza used that excuse as a teenager to exit gang activities and refine his spray painting craft.

As a 31-year-old, Mendoza estimated he has easily spray-painted more than 100 murals in the United States and Mexico.

"I grew up in the south side of Juarez," Mendoza said through translation. "It was a dangerous neighborhood and there were a lot of gangs. In my neighborhood there was a particular gang or group of people that controlled it. You had to mark your territory, and that's where I learned about graffiti."

"From there, it kind of took off. I started drawing and getting money for the graffiti, and I've been doing that for 15 to 16 years now."

In his emergence as a muralist, Mendoza also adopted the pseudonym "Deko_uno."

Mendoza said his artwork serves two purposes. The first is that he's able to live comfortably off of his art.

The second is his artwork is able to serve a social purpose. Mendoza said he can go and create art in places that wouldn't have art, especially low income neighborhoods.

Mendoza's ideas about his artwork are also reflective from one of his biggest influences — Mexican painter Diego Rivera. Mendoza said Rivera not only produced quality artwork but it had a message behind it.

"I've read all of [Rivera's] books," Mendoza said through translation. "[Rivera] had a lot of social responsibility and did a lot of social work."

Mendoza recently completed his second



JACOB FORD, ODESSA AMERICAN/AP

Benito Mendoza paints a mural of a burger on the north side of Curb Side Bistro in Odessa, Texas, in May. The Mexican artist estimates he has spray-painted more than 100 murals in the U.S. and Mexico.

piece of artwork in Odessa for Curb Side Bistro co-owners, and husband and wife duo, Alejandro Barrientos and Stephanie Barrientos.

The spray-painting is of a burger that features plenty of vibrant colors.

"I told [Mendoza] that I want your interpretation of a burger," Alejandro said. "He saw some of the pictures on our menu and he took a little bit of our inspiration, but the rest is his style."

"He merged our two worlds together and I think it's awesome."

Mendoza completed the first mural April 23 and it was painted on the front of the building.

However, Mendoza's journey to Odessa took persistent outreach from Alejandro.

While visiting El Paso the Barrientos spotted one of Mendoza's murals on the side of Kinley's House Coffee and Tea. They drove back around to snap a photograph of the mural.

The mural featured the face of a woman, a jaguar and an eagle. Alejandro noticed Mendoza's signature in the top right of the mural so he began contacting him over social media to talk about an opportunity for a mural to be painted on the side of Curb Side Bistro.

"Every time my wife and I go out of town, we use it as an opportunity to gather

new ideas, check out other restaurants, check out other menus and check out the vibe," Alejandro said. "You hear a lot about places and you think 'What makes it cool?'

"People talk about Austin and Dallas, and you get there and you ask, 'What are they doing here that is special?' A lot of time it includes artwork."

Mendoza currently lives in Guanajuato, Mexico, which is about five hours northwest of Mexico City. He is very particular about what projects he does because he doesn't want to do anything too repetitive, which could stifle his creativity.

Whether it's in the United States or in Mexico, Mendoza is selective on the projects. He admitted he was eager to paint at Curb Side Bistro because he had never visited Odessa before and the building was a blank white canvas.

"The whole ride over here I was thinking about what I was going to do," Mendoza said. "As I was driving over here, I saw the landscape that there's nothing here. There's no art. There's no color. It's just a desert. I know what this place kind of needs."

Since Mendoza isn't a U.S. citizen, Alejandro said he has to send a letter to immigration stating that Mendoza was staying to complete his commission piece of art and then would return to Mexico.

After Mendoza spray-painted his second piece of artwork, Alejandro was in talks with him about a third. Alejandro said that he and a couple of other business owners are attempting to put together a plan to have Mendoza do three murals over three days.

"I actually have to write a letter to show that he's just coming to visit me and do some artwork," Alejandro said.

"Right now, the immigration process is so strict. They always question if [Mendoza] is going to stay (in the United States) for good."

"Mendoza is an artist and all of his art is in Mexico. It's actually a process."

Mural with infamous Trump quotes at issue in New Orleans

By JANET MC CONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Would a public mural depicting a naked politician with his young intern be art, or obscene?

That was just one of the many questions a judge posed to lawyers Monday during a hearing to determine whether New Orleans' regulations for murals violate the free speech of a landowner whose currently covered fence features infamous Donald Trump quotes from 2005.

"I will rule as soon as I can," District Judge Martin L.C. Feldman told attorneys.

Landowner Neal Morris sued after being ordered to remove the mural, which transcribes part of then-presidential candidate Trump's record "Access Hollywood" conversation, including a boast about groping women's genitals. The mural is written in large capital letters with cartoons replacing four words. In one section it says, "I moved on her like a dog," with a cartoon dog in place of the word.

The fence has been covered since the city served Morris with a notice about the regulations, first with a canvas sheet with the word "censored" repeated in bright colors, then with a plain canvas sheet.

Monday's hearing dealt only with the constitutionality of the regulations, not whether the mural's contents are



JANET MC CONNAUGHEY/AP

This mural of musician Dr. John is among nearly two dozen created through Neal Morris' NOLA Murals Project in New Orleans. Morris is suing the city over its regulation of the content of murals.

legal. The city ordered Morris to remove the mural because he failed to obtain a permit for it.

Permits are issued only after applicants submit preliminary sketches of the artwork they plan to display.

During Monday's hearing, Feldman asked Bruce Hamilton, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer representing Morris, how he'd advise the mayor if he were the city attorney.

"I am not in the business of how to create

regulations," Hamilton replied.

"If you're arguing constitutionality, you're obligated to look at both sides," Feldman said.

Hamilton said he'd tell the mayor that instead of requiring preliminary sketches, the city could simply regulate murals after they are installed. The sketch requirement, he said, amounts to an unconstitutional prior restraint on artistic free speech.

What if, Feldman asked, the mural in question showed a nude former President Bill Clinton and a young woman resembling former intern Monica Lewinsky and the woman never had sexual relations with that woman? What would that be art? Or would it be obscene?

"I don't believe it would be obscene. I believe it would be art," Hamilton said. Asked why, he said it wouldn't be appealing to prurient interest.

"How do you know that?" the judge asked.

"That's a good question, your honor," Hamilton said.

"Earn your salary," the judge responded.

Feldman also asked Hamilton whether a huge painting of Botticelli's *Venus* would be allowable if it bore words noting that it's a copy of one at the Uffizi Gallery. "I think that under the city ordinance it could be considered a sign," Hamilton said.

When it was Deputy City Attorney Corwin St. James' turn, Feldman asked why the city needs to regulate murals when it has a separate, unquestioned ordinance to regulate commercial signs.

"We're concerned about somebody putting up a sign that's masquerading as a mural," St. James said.

If that should happen, Feldman asked, couldn't the city simply enforce the sign ordinance? "Why don't you just regulate signs?" he asked.

The judge also asked St. James about Botticelli's *Venus*, and added another hypothetical question about a wordless painting on a brothel's outside wall.

"Is it a sign advertising a house of prostitution or a mural extolling the virtues of unlicensed sex?" he asked.

"I would say mural," St. James answered.

Feldman also noted that the U.S. Supreme Court recently struck down a section of federal law that kept businesses from registering trademarks considered scandalous or immoral.

The city revised its mural rules in June, cutting the permitting cost from \$500 to \$50, and moving approval from the City Planning Commission to the Department of Safety and Permits — but still requiring sketches for approval, NOLA.com and The Times-Picayune reported.

WORLD

Hong Kong leader: Effort to amend bill 'dead'

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday that the effort to amend a highly contentious extradition bill was dead, but it wasn't clear if the legislation was being withdrawn as protesters have demanded. Leaders of the monthlong protest movement vowed to keep up pressure until the legislation is officially revoked.

Lam acknowledged at a news conference that there were "lingering doubts about the government's sincerity or worries whether the government will

restart the process in the Legislative Council." But she said: "I reiterate here, there is no such plan. The bill is dead."

Hundreds of thousands of people in the semiautonomous Chinese territory have protested against the extradition legislation and have expressed growing fear that Hong Kong is losing the freedoms guaranteed to it when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

Protest leaders Jimmy Sham and Bonnie Leung said Lam was being hypocritical in claiming to have met protesters' demands

without actually speaking to them directly.

"Instead, she should really stand out and talk to the young protesters," Leung said. "The young protesters have been out in the street outside her house, outside government headquarters for weeks, roaring to be heard."

In the most recent protest on Sunday, tens of thousands of people chanting "Free Hong Kong" and some carrying British colonial-era flags marched toward a high-speed railway station that connects Hong Kong to the mainland. They said they wanted to

carry a peaceful protest message to people on the mainland, where state-run media have not covered the protests widely but have focused instead on clashes with police and property damage.

On July 1, the 22nd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover, a peaceful march drew hundreds of thousands of people but was overshadowed by an assault on the territory's legislative building. A few hundred demonstrators shattered thick glass panels to enter the building and wreaked havoc for three hours, spray-painting slogans on the chamber

walls, overturning furniture and damaging electronic voting and fire prevention systems.

Protesters also are demanding an independent investigation into alleged police abuse of force against protesters on June 12, when officers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds blocking major streets.

Lam said Tuesday that investigations would take place under the Department of Justice "in accordance with the evidence, the law and also the prosecution code."

Christian family details crackdown on church not sanctioned by China

By MICHELLE YUN
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The Sunday service this week at an unassuming church in Taiwan was especially moving for one man. It was the first time Liao Qiang, 49, had worshipped publicly since authorities shut down his church in China seven months ago.

Liao arrived in Taiwan last week after fleeing China with five family members. He and his daughter, Ren Ruiting, 23, described living under constant surveillance for the past seven months after authorities detained them and dozens of other members of their prominent but not government-sanctioned church in December.

China's ruling Communist Party has carried out a widespread crackdown on all religious institutions in recent years, including bulldozing churches and mosques, barring Tibetan children from Buddhist religious studies and incarcerating more than a million members of Islamic ethnic minorities in what are termed "reeducation centers."

President and party leader Xi Jinping has ordered that all religions must "sinicize" to ensure they are loyal to the officially atheistic party.

In contrast, Taiwan's democratically elected government has long taken a hands-off approach to religion on the island, where most follow Buddhism and traditional Chinese beliefs but where Christianity and other religions also thrive.

Liao and Ren's account is the first detailing what has happened since the detentions began at the Early Rain Covenant Church. It shows the determination of the Chinese government — and the lengths to which it has gone — to eradicate a congregation that has long been a thorn in its side.

Early Rain's pastor, Wang Yi, who remains detained, has been critical of Xi and the party. He has made a point of holding a prayer service on June 4 each year to commemorate the 1989 bloody crackdown on democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, an anniversary that China's government has sought to wipe from memory.

Ren told The Associated Press that she had to report her whereabouts to police using social media whenever she went out. She was told her safety couldn't be guaranteed if she disobeyed.

"That's when I knew it was no longer safe for us here and that my children were most in danger," Liao said after Sunday's service, attended by about 30 people, at the small Reformed Presbyterian Xin'an Church in Taipei.

Government officials in China did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China's government requires that Protestants worship only in churches recognized and regulated by the officially sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement, although many more are part of independent congregations.

More than 100 members of Early Rain were taken into cus-



CHIANG YING-YING/AP

From left, Ren Ruiting, Peng Ran, Liao Qiang and Ren Dejun follow a hymn book during service at a church in Taipei, Taiwan, where they fled from China over religious restrictions.

“One day when China opens up, we'll go back. Whether it's five years or even 10 years, we'll eventually make our way back to where God wants us to serve.”

Ren Ruiting
member of family who fled China to Taiwan after their church was shut down

tody from the church or their homes on Dec. 9 and 10, according to Human Rights Watch. Those detained included Wang, the pastor. His wife, Jiang Rong, was released on bail last month.

Liao said the police tried to force him to sign a statement renouncing his church, but he refused.

"If our elders decided to break up the church, then I can accept it," he said. "But it's not up to you to say it's evil or illegal."

Liao and his family hope to stay in Taiwan while they seek asylum in the United States, but with a 15-day tourist visa, their future is unclear.

"I'm not sure whether they can stay beyond the visa unless the Taiwanese government is willing to make it a humanitarian case on the basis of religious persecution," said Chiu Ling-yao, secretary-general of the Taiwan Association for China Human Rights, which is trying to help the

family find a solution. The spokeswoman for the American Institute in Taiwan — the de facto U.S. embassy — could not be reached for comment.

Ren hopes that one day she can return to her home.

"One day when China opens up, we'll go back," she said. "Whether it's five years or even 10 years, we'll eventually make our way back to where God wants us to serve."

Saudi Arabia says it intercepted bomb-laden Yemeni rebel drone

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia says it has intercepted a drone launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeting "civilian infrastructure" in the

kingdom. The announcement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency early Tuesday did not identify what the drone targeted.

The Houthi's Al-Masirah sat-

ellite television station said the

Houthi sought to again target Abha regional airport, which they've hit several times in recent weeks, as well as a power station in Abha.

Attacks on Abha's airport have

wounded dozens and killed at least one person.

The Houthis have stepped up launching bomb-laden drones in Saudi Arabia amid the kingdom's yearslong war in the country

against them. The Iran-backed rebel's campaign comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. over the faltering nuclear deal with world powers.

WORLD

UK's May backs US ambassador amid leak spat

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May backed Britain's ambassador to the United States on Tuesday after President Donald Trump cut off contact with him following the leak of diplomatic cables that branded the U.S. administration "inept."

May stood by Kim Darroch amid the controversy over the release of the documents published in the Mail on Sunday newspaper. Darroch's forthright views have created awkwardness between two countries who often celebrate having a "special relationship."

To underscore the snub, Darroch found himself uninvited to a White House dinner held in honor of the Emir of Qatar on Monday.

While British officials hunted for the culprit behind the leak, senior Conservative Party figure and former Foreign Secretary William Hague said the government was right to back Darroch.

"You can't change an ambassador at the demand of a host country," Hague told the BBC. "It is their job to give an honest assessment of what is happening in that country."

In a series of tweets, Trump said Darroch was "not liked or well thought of" in the U.S. and also attacked May, accusing her of "making a mess" of Britain's departure from the European Union. The comments come only weeks after Trump made a state visit to the country.

"The good news for the wonderful United Kingdom is that they will soon have a new Prime Minister," Trump tweeted. "While I thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent state visit last month, it was the Queen who I was most impressed with!"

The tweets ratcheted up the



MATT DUNHAM/AP

British Prime Minister Theresa May is standing by the U.K. ambassador to the U.S. after his comments critical of President Donald Trump were leaked.

pressure on Britain's government over Darroch, who also has been accused by some Brexit-backing U.K. politicians of lacking enthusiasm for Britain's departure from the EU.

The journalist who reported the leak, Isabel Oakeshott, is a strong Brexit backer and an ally of Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage, who also is Britain's leading champion of Trump. Trump has been supportive of Farage and once said he would "do a great job" as an ambassador to Washington.

Farage sidestepped that notion Monday, saying, "I'm not a diplomat."

In the memos, Darroch, who has been Britain's envoy to Washington since 2016, suggested that in order to communicate with the president, "you need to make your points simple, even blunt."

The cables, which cover a period from 2017 to recent weeks, suggested things in Washington weren't likely to improve.

"We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less factious; less diplomatically clumsy and inept," they said.

in a statement late Monday that it hired a British law firm to file a lawsuit against Christie's, saying the auction house did not provide documents proving ownership.

Christie's has denied any wrongdoing, saying it carried out "extensive due diligence" to verify the provenance of the statue and had "gone beyond what is required to assure legal title."

The committee also criticized British authorities for not supporting its claim to the sculpture.

Egypt's National Committee for Antiquities Repatriation said



PHOTOS BY ALVARO BARRENTOS/AP

Revellers run next to fighting bulls during the running of the bulls at the San Fermín Festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, on Tuesday.

Run-in with Pamplona bull made American man 'fear for my life'

BY ALVARO BARRENTOS
AND ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain — The desire to have a selfie as a souvenir from running with the bulls in Spain turned into a near-death experience an American lawyer says he'll never forget.

A charging bull ran over and gored San Francisco resident Jaime Alvarez in the neck during the first run of this year's San Fermín festival in Pamplona, an event immortalized by writer Ernest Hemingway nearly a century ago.

"The joy and the excitement of being in the bullring quickly turned into a scare, into real fear for my life," Alvarez, 46, said Monday at a regional hospital where he was recovering from surgery.

Doctors told Alvarez the bull's horn went deep into his neck and fractured part of a cheekbone. That it didn't hit the jugular vein or major arteries was described to the injured patient as "beyond miraculous."

Alvarez, who works as a public defender in Santa Clara County, Calif., said he realized how severely he'd been hurt during his encounter with the bull Sunday morning when he touched his neck and his hand came away covered with blood.

"In the course of a few seconds, a million thoughts came to my mind, and that of dying was definitely one of them," he said.

Once it appeared certain he would live, the run-in brought rebukes from Alvarez's wife and daughter. The three stopped in Pamplona to check out the famous San Fermín festival while en route to another city where the couple's son was playing in a soccer tournament.

While his daughter and wife cautioned him against joining the crowd that would race the bulls, Alvarez said the energy in the streets of Pamplona on the festival's opening day was too strong to resist.

The running of the bulls — and the nine days of seamless partying that accompanies the festival — draws about 1 million spectators to the city of 200,000 every year. Many foreigners imagine following the footsteps of Hemingway, who channeled his experience in the 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises."

Hundreds of runners with varying degrees of fitness and hours of sleep race ahead of or next to the bulls charging through a cobblestone and barricaded street course to Pamplona's bullring. Records date to 1910 list 16 deaths from the event.

Alvarez said he ran most of the 913-yard course



Jaime Alvarez sits in a hospital in Pamplona on Monday after being gored by a bull Sunday at the San Fermín Festival.

ahead of the bulls. But by the time they entered the bullfighting plaza at the end, the pack of animals had caught up with him.

He said he climbed onto a fence for safety and only returned to the arena to shoot a short video when he thought that the danger had passed. He wanted "a five-second video scene to say 'Here I am, I did it!'"

That's when the stray bull came at him running fast. The bulls chosen to race in Pamplona often weigh in the range of 1,102-1,323 pounds.

"The impact was unlike anything I've ever felt. It was like being hit by a car or a truck," Alvarez said.

"It was scary."

"I was really out of it, really stunned. I didn't know what direction to go," he recalled.

Someone grabbed Alvarez by the arm and pushed through the crowds to get to paramedics, possibly saving the American's life.

His urgent surgery Sunday took 2½ hours but Alvarez said his stable condition means he could be discharged as soon as Tuesday. He has promised himself a return to Pamplona to enjoy the festival as a spectator but not a bull racer.

Two other Americans have been injured so far this year. Video footage showed how a bull approached Aaron Froelicher, of Florence, Ky., from the back, tossed him into the air and gored him in the left thigh. Authorities said the 23-year-old remained hospitalized Monday while recovering from surgery.

Monday's bull run lasting 2 minutes and 23 seconds yielded less serious injuries despite the ferocity traditionally attributed to bulls from the Cebada Gago ranch, which supplied the second day's pack.

Egypt asks Interpol to help it retrieve King Tut statue

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt says it has asked Interpol to help track down a 3,000-year-old sculpture of the famed boy pharaoh Tutankhamun after Christie's auctioned it off last week despite Cairo's objections.

The Britain-based auction house sold the brown quartzite head depicting King Tut for more than \$5.9 million.

Egypt's National Committee for Antiquities Repatriation said

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ice cream licked at store in 2nd incident

LA NAPOLEONVILLE — Another apparent incident of someone licking ice cream at a store has surfaced, this time in Louisiana.

The Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office said a man posted a video of himself on Facebook opening a Blue Bell ice cream container, licking it, poking it with his finger and putting it back on the shelf.

News outlets reported Lenise Martin III, 36, was charged Saturday with property tampering and posting criminal activity.

Police Commander Lonny Cavalier said that after being alerted by management, deputies found Martin showing the sales clerk a receipt for the ice cream he licked. Deputies confirmed the purchase but still decided to move forward with the charges.

Earlier this month, a teen in Texas was shown in a video taking ice cream from a Walmart freezer, removing the top to lick it and then putting it back.

Curfew crackdown is used to stop car thefts

TN CLARKSVILLE — Police in Clarksville are cracking down with the city's curfew in response to a rise in car thefts and burglaries by juveniles.

Clarksville Police spokesman Jim Knoll said there have been 500 vehicle burglaries and 300 thefts in the last six months.

The Leaf Chronicle reported that Knoll said stronger curfew enforcement could solve the problem.

He said minors under 16 cannot be out unsupervised between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., and 16- and 17-year-olds can't be out between 1 and 6 a.m.

Woman hiking waterfall plunges 50 feet, lives

SC MOUNTAIN ROAD — It took South Carolina rescuers hours to reach a woman who fell down a waterfall while hiking.

News outlets reported the woman was at Blue Hole Falls when she fell 50 to 60 feet Saturday. Oconee County Fire Chief Charlie King said rescue crews needed more than two hours to build multiple rope systems to reach the woman.

When rescuers reached her, they discovered she suffered "a significant injury." She was air-lifted to a hospital.

Police: Zoo vandals let bobcat escape briefly

NM ROSWELL — Police are searching for whoever cut locks and fencing on exhibits at a New Mexico zoo, allowing four animals, including a bobcat, to escape before they were quickly found nearby.

Police in Roswell said a visitor noticed cut fencing at the red-tailed hawk exhibit Sunday. The zoo was evacuated as staff discovered that other vandalized



ERIN O. SMITH, CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

Things are looking up

Brooklyn McDaniel, 9, gets a boost from her mom, Stephanie Pamplin, while playing around at the beach at Chester Frost Park in Hixson, Tenn., on Friday.

enclosures had freed a raccoon, two raccoonlike coatimundis and a bobcat.

Officials said the animals were all found within 20 minutes in nonpublic zookeeper areas.

Man charged after lit firecrackers tossed

FL CRESTVIEW — Florida authorities arrested a man who they say walked into a home uninhabited and tossed lit firecrackers under a 9-year-old girl's bed.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office on Saturday charged Matthew Morrison, 44, with burglary, child cruelty without great harm and possession of methamphetamine.

Investigators said Morrison lives in a tent near the home. Police said a man who lives in the house heard the firecrackers and chased Morrison out with a stick.

Morrison told investigators he was only trying to play a prank on the child, who woke up and started crying and shaking when the firecrackers exploded.

Rainbow flag again set on fire at gay bar

NY NEW YORK — The owner of a New York City gay bar said a rainbow flag was set afire at the club's entrance for the second time in just

THE CENSUS

\$172K

The amount of money a man has been ordered to pay Hawaiian Airlines after his behavior on a flight to South Korea forced it to return to Honolulu. Kyong Chot Kim, 48, was sentenced last week to six months in jail for interfering with crew members on the flight in February. Prosecutors said the South Korean man drank a bottle of whisky before the flight and later bothered a child seated next to him, then lunged at a flight attendant. U.S. servicemen helped restrain Kim as the flight turned around.

over a month.

A New York City police spokesman said the Monday morning incident at Alibi Lounge is being investigated as a possible hate crime. Owner Alexi Minko said his staff told him the flag was burned between 12:20 and 12:45 a.m.

Police were already investigating a possible anti-gay bias crime at the Harlem bar after rainbow flags at its entrance were set on fire May 31.

No one was injured in Monday's flag-burning.

Mount Rushmore site at key renovation point

SD RAPID CITY — One of the country's most popular tourist attractions is getting to the core of a multimillion dollar upgrade.

The Rapid City Journal reported that major construction projects at the Mount Rushmore

National Memorial in South Dakota are scheduled to begin next week. The National Park Service said work will continue through much of 2020.

Mount Rushmore spokeswoman Maureen McGee-Ballinger said the upgrades are designed to make it easier to traverse the park and provide clearer views of Gutzon Borglum's sculpture, which features the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Police: Mom left son, 4, in hot car to punish him

UT DRAPER — Police arrested a woman in Draper after they say she left her 4-year-old son alone in a hot car as a punishment.

The Deseret News reported Jessica Lee Brown, 28, was booked into Salt Lake County Jail on July 2 on suspicion of child endangerment.

ment and child abuse.

A police report shows officers were called to Draper City Park about 9 p.m. by a passerby who saw the child alone in the car with the windows rolled up.

Brown told the officer her son was acting out and she put him in the car with no air conditioning as a punishment.

She also said she was using meth and heroin. Police said they found drug paraphernalia in Brown's purse and syringe needles in the back seat near her son.

Prison guard accused of attempted pimping

CO DENVER — A guard at a Colorado women's prison has been accused of trying to pimp a woman who previously served a sentence at the facility after paying her for oral sex.

Denver Police announced Joshua Hensley's arrest on suspicion of attempted pimping and patronizing a prostitute on Friday. They asked any other victims to contact Hensley.

Hensley, 38, was arrested July 3.

According to court records, a woman told police that Hensley paid her for oral sex in March and repeatedly tried to recruit her to work as a prostitute with him acting as her pimp.

From wire reports

FACES



PAUL DRINKWATER, NBCUNIVERSAL, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

"Watch What Happens: Live" host Andy Cohen and executive producer Deirdre Connolly do the TV press rounds earlier this year. The half-hour talk show has become a key player in the late-night arena after launching in 2009 to little fanfare.

Rolling with the punches

'Watch What Happens: Live' showrunner Connolly had to catch up quickly after pivoting from a Kennedy internship in politics to pop culture TV world

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times

"Iwanted to work at the State Department" is not something you'd expect to hear from the showrunner of Bravo's off-the-wall late-night gabfest hosted by Andy Cohen, "Watch What Happens: Live."

But that was Deirdre Connolly's first career ambition. She studied political science at Boston College and was planning to move to Washington, D.C., to forge a career in the federal government. But an internship for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy in her final year of college left Connolly at a crossroads.

"As much as I admired him and it was amazing and it was such a gift to do, it kind of turned me off of politics as a job," she says.

When Kennedy's head of communications left for MTV, it occurred to Connolly that her love for pop culture could be her meal ticket.

She eventually went to MTV too. A job on "Total Request Live" kicked off her career in live television.

"Watch What Happens: Live" launched in 2009 to little fanfare, but it has become a key player in the late-night arena, attracting A-listers like Meryl Streep, Oprah Winfrey and Jennifer Lawrence.

"Deirdre understands my voice perfectly," Cohen says. "She has made sure that the culture at 'Watch What Happens: Live' — a little show based around fandom — has remained the same as it was when we started. We can be shawty, but we're ultimately positive and we're ultimately fun. She's been a great co-pilot with me as we do this."

To be celebrating the series' 10th anniversary is a trip for Connolly. "It is insane to think about. It really is," she says. "I started to realize that I'm measuring my life in seasons of 'Housewives.' I'm like, 'Oh, I was doing that around the time the spinoff for 'Bethany Ever After' started or whatever.'"

Connolly talked about her early days at MTV, leading without toxicity and rolling with the blunder of live TV.

'Total Request Live' as a training ground

I think my first production assistant job was on a show with Tommy Lee called "Return of the Rock." And then that led to other shows, and finally, after probably two years at MTV, I wound up at "TRL."

(My really big shutdown-of-Times-Square memory was Eminem. I was a segment producer at the time, and I think it was the "Marshall Mathers" album that came out, and he came and we had the shades up, and the police would tell us to put them down if things

were getting too out of control out in Times Square. We had Justin Timberlake when he had his first solo album. I wasn't much older than the people who everyone was freaking out about ... It was really exciting to be on the inside and seeing it up close.

MTV put a lot of trust in young people ... It felt like a lot of responsibility, but it also felt like, what a great way to learn, to actually just be thrown something and just figure it out.

De-stressing the work environment of live TV

With live TV, I worked in a lot of what I call "high-octane environments," where there was a lot of stress and there was yelling. It rattled my confidence. And I thought that eliminated me from being a live TV showrunner because I wasn't really comfortable doing those things. It's not my default. So meeting Andy and getting onto this show and realizing I would look like a crazy person if I was yelling about this stuff, it kind of felt like, "Oh, wait, I am now in control and I can set the tone here and it can be something completely different."

Management is not something that is always taught. It's just something people take for granted that they're able to do. And truthfully, I don't think a lot of people are great managers. For me, the No. 1 thing is embracing confrontation and not feeling like that's a bad word. It's understanding that confrontation is actually the most compassionate way to solve a problem. If I'm internalizing something and I'm upset the way that something's happening, and I'm allowing it to take up so much space in me, who does that help?

Teachable moment with Patti LaBelle, crabs

Andy actually loves a live TV crisis. It is very energizing to him. There was this moment a little bit early on ... He gave Patti LaBelle a plate of crabs, and our lighting guy tried to do a lighting cue, but for whatever reason, all the lights went out except for this weird light that shone on the crabs themselves. And I was like, "Oh, my God, we've got to go to break. This is a disaster. We're in the darkness." And Andy was like, "Did the lights just go out? Oh, my God, what's happening? This is amazing!" you know? And I thought, how funny and unique to respond to it that way. It made me think, there's really no real crisis that could happen, because it's live TV. That's why people are watching. Watching the polished stuff as well as the things that go wrong is what makes live TV live, you know? So it was kind of a good lesson for me to actually relax a little bit and just think, "You know what, roll with it."

Singleton remembered at 'Snowfall' premiere

Associated Press

"Snowfall" co-executive producer and co-creator John Singleton was in the hearts and minds of cast members who gathered Monday on the red carpet for the premiere of the third season of the FX crime drama.

Singleton, 51, died in late April following a stroke while the new season was still in production. Actress Angela Lewis said Singleton was a constant presence on the set, helping pick the cast and crew, and offering advice. She called him "the heart of the show."

Star Damson Idris, who portrays drug dealer Franklin Saint, said Singleton left the series in great shape and in good hands. "The crew is fully diverse," Idris said. "He hand-picked everyone and he empowered people. He left people so many codes and he left us with the confidence to go on."

The drama, set in the 1980s, revolves around the first crack epidemic in Los Angeles.

"Snowfall" was Singleton's "baby," said actor Isaiah John. "He always said that this story has never been told. And he wanted to be the one to tell that story."

The third season of "Snowfall" debuts Wednesday statewide.



Halle Bailey

Freeform supports Ariel casting amid backlash

A Disney-owned cable network has taken aim at critics who disagreed with the decision to cast Halle Bailey as Ariel in the upcoming adaptation of "The Little Mermaid."

Freeform posted an open letter on Sunday in support of Bailey after some on social media used the hashtag #NotMyAriel to object to a black woman portraying the red-headed mermaid princess of the animated film. But the network says "Danish mermaids can be black because Danish 'people' can be black."

Bailey is known for being half of the sister duo Chloe + Halle. She will star in the live-action version that will include songs from the 1989 animated Disney hit as well as new tunes from original composer Alan Menken and "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Bailey will join Jacob Tremblay and Awkwafina in the film.



SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Dental

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

To the lengthy list of issues that divide Republicans from Democrats, add this seemingly nonpartisan question: How proud are you to be an American?

According to an annual Gallup survey, released two days before Independence Day, only 45% of U.S. adults consider themselves "extremely" proud to be American, the lowest level recorded since 2001. (Twenty-five percent are "very" proud; 18% "moderately"; 12% "a little" or "not at all.")

Yet the overall figures obscure a deep divergence in feeling between members of the two parties. Democrats account for most of the recent decline; since 2016, the share of that party professing "extreme" pride has fallen from 44% to 22%, while the Republican figure has grown from 68% to 76%.

The Trump presidency is the key variable. It reinforced the national pride of older, whiter people, who tend to vote Republican, while inducing the opposite reaction in the younger, more diverse Democratic base. And with Trump again on the ballot, the 2020 election may hinge not on foreign policy, the economy or health care, but on pride — who gets to feel it, and why.

President Donald Trump staked his claim in a Fourth of July speech that was bombastic, kitschy — and calculated to appeal to the extremely proud 45% of Americans. (That statistic, probably not coincidentally, corresponds to the 44% of adults who approve of the job he is doing as president, according to the latest Post/ABC News poll.)

This is "the most just and virtuous republic ever conceived," Trump declared, in unstated but obvious defiance of the cur-

rent national reckoning over the ugly, but long avoided, details of slavery, racism, eugenics, sexual assault and other systemic ills of American history.

Trump's election on a nativist right-wing populist platform is itself a reason we are having that discussion, since it reminded people that certain demons lurking within our vaunted democracy had not been vanquished after all.

Yet in words bound to be replayed in campaign ads from now until Nov. 3, 2020, Trump told his voters, in essence, that they have nothing to apologize for and associated them — and him — with institutions in which Americans are most likely to take pride, according to Gallup.

He lavished praise on the armed forces (of which 89% of Americans are proud), but there was also a shout-out to the "creativity and genius that lit up the lights of Broadway and the soundstages of Hollywood" ("culture and the arts" make 85% of Americans proud). Leukemia researcher Emil Freireich got a laudatory mention from the president, though Trump referred to him as "Emmanuel" American "scientific achievements" stir pride in 91% of American hearts.

Note that the creative and scientific communities are not exactly hotbeds of Trumpism today. No matter. The president even dared praise heroes of the struggles for emancipation and civil rights, all the way back to Harriet Tubman — even as his administration scuttles plans to honor that abolitionist by putting her image on U.S. currency. Diversity makes 72% of us proud.

It's easier to stimulate, or exploit, pride if you're shameless, apparently. The challenge for Democrats is that it's in the skeptical, reformist nature of liberals and progressives to feel national pride

less reflexively than conservatives do. The largest share of Democrats to express "extreme" pride since 2001 is 65%, compared with a Republican peak of 86%.

To a greater extent than other liberal Democrats, Barack Obama merged progressive themes and traditional national pride, recasting American history as a tale of progress from flawed origins, a long-term redemptive ideal in which all could take pride.

So far in the 2020 race, Democratic candidates seem to be promising less of a restoration of national pride than an elimination of national shame — the shame Democrats feel at living under a president who behaves the way Trump does, and a deeper shame at America's failings and injustices, historic and contemporary.

The party's front-runner, Joe Biden, has been forced to apologize for the part he allegedly played in the shameful past, while Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., promises we will no longer lag Europe on health care and Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Julian Castro promise to expiate our racial shame through at least a discussion of reparations.

We shall find out soon enough which appeal — pride-promotion or shame-elimination — carries the day politically.

Meanwhile, among American institutions, there is one in which a clear majority of us do not take pride, according to Gallup. Ironically, it is the one that's unique to the United States: our political system. Thirty-two percent of respondents told Gallup they were proud of it. The figures were 42% for Republicans and 25% for Democrats. After 230 years of constitutional history, that's a real shame.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

American pride now a partisan issue?

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OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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it as a snub.

The cables may also make it harder to replace Darroch — a former permanent representative to the EU viewed with suspicion by Brexiters — with another diplomat unpopular with the same constituency: Martin Sedwill, the head of the civil service, who had been tipped as his successor.

The real problem with the leaks, though, isn't so much their content or the diplomatic ripples they create. The ambassadorial role is important, but it's not that important. The U.S.-U.K. relationship is multi-layered, long-standing and complex. It can withstand a few indiscretions. The memos are shocking, rather, because they show the dysfunction and ineptitude at the heart of Britain's own governing institutions.

The civil service is, above all, known for its independence, its professionalism and its dispassionate service to the government of the day. Staffers are inculcated to be apolitical, that rarest of qualities these days. They are paid to deliver their personal and professional assessments of the politics of their country of posting, just as Darroch did.

And yet the professional part of Britain's governing institutions has been dragged by its hair into the political vortex of Brexit. The first shot against the independence of the civil service was fired when Ivan Rogers, a veteran EU hand, was criticized and then sidelined after he warned about Theresa May's approach to the Brexit negotiations. He eventually resigned when his advice was ignored. Brexiters then routinely claimed that the civil service, including May's top negotiator, Olly Robbins,

were Aphobophiles who were simply trying to kill Brexit.

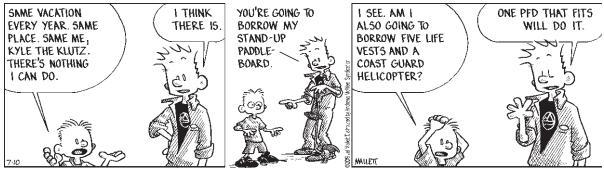
It's almost impossible to see the leaking of a senior diplomat's confidential correspondence as anything other than an act of national self-sabotage. Nigel Farage — the Brexit Party leader whom Trump once said would make a fine ambassador to the U.S. — jumped on the leak to call for a purge of senior civil servants in favor of officials who were better disposed toward Trump and Brexit.

And this is where the leak suits the agenda of many Brexiters. They want to neutralize the civil service, to strike fear into the heart of any who dare to speak truth to power if those facts don't serve their agenda. For them, any argument against Britain's imminent exit from the EU, or against an economically damaging no-deal Brexit, is un-British. The warnings of skeptics — those who note that the Irish border isn't the same as the Dover-Calais one, or that the EU has rejected the very path the Brexiters claim is clearly lit before them — are accused of breaking with the Dunkirk spirit that Brexit demands.

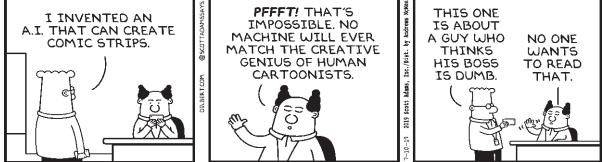
More than three years after the toxic Brexit campaign in which it was said that voters had had enough of experts, the leaking of the Darroch memos are a message to all experts that they remain unwelcome. That's far more troubling than any hurt feelings in Washington caused by the ambassador's candid comments.

Theresa Rapelje writes editorials on European politics and economics for Bloomberg Opinion. She was editorial page editor of The Wall Street Journal.

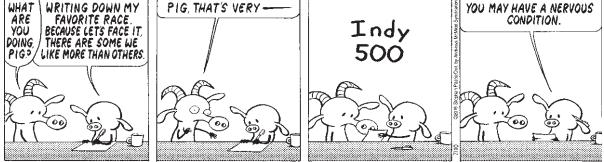
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



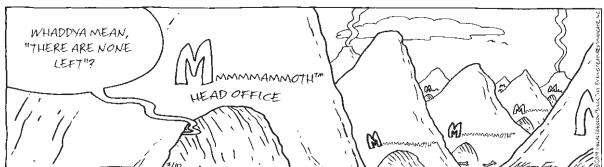
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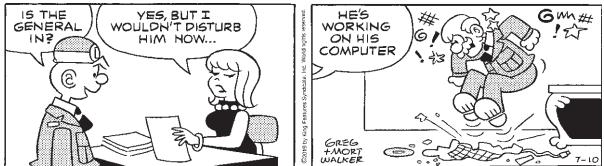
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Carpe Diem



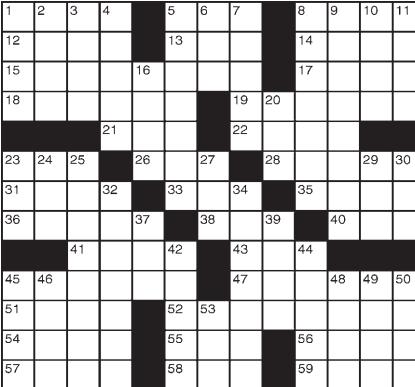
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Spill the beans
- 5 Highland hat
- 6 "Wheel of Fortune" option
- 12 1003, in old Rome
- 13 Stop — dime
- 14 Otherwise
- 15 Puns and such
- 17 Christen
- 18 Derisive looks
- 19 Imitated a donkey
- 21 Nanny's charge
- 22 Jazz singer
- 23 Khan title
- 26 Dandy guy
- 28 In a way, slangily
- 31 Naked
- 33 Pro vote
- 35 Harvest
- 36 Thin pancake
- 38 "Blue Bloods" ainer
- 40 Museum display
- 41 Now, in a memo
- 43 Univ. dorm supervisors
- 45 Speak from memory
- 47 Roma's land
- 51 Pedestal occupant
- 52 Secret term for a military operation
- 54 Rover's pal

DOWN

- 1 Upscale autos
- 2 King of the jungle
- 3 Suffix for million
- 4 Fancy bathroom fixture
- 5 "War and Peace" author
- 6 Ivanovic of tennis
- 7 Perhaps
- 8 Capitol VIP
- 9 Romper room
- 10 "Woe —!"
- 11 Must have
- 16 Campus VIP

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	L	A	N	M	I	C	M	A	R	T
E	L	O		A	S	P	O	M	A	R
M	O	R	T	I	C	I	A	R	O	V
O	N	A	G	S	B	A	R	E	S	T
M	O	W	A	R	T					
F	U	R	O	A	C	R	O	N	Y	M
B	R	E	I	M	S	R	A	R	A	
I	N	V	O	I	C	E	T	I	P	S
C	R	Y	A	A	A					
H	E	N	C	E	L	I	D	L	E	D
A	Q	U	A	M	O	R	A	L	I	Z
R	U	I	N	A	V	E	E	A	R	N
K	I	T	S	D	E	I	S	T	R	Y

7-10

CRYPTOQUIP

K H X V D O H V A V A S ' H K C A V T J G
J K C M Y K H H Y K H X C S S G

M C G ' O I S Z - J V S Z D , T C H H Y Z S

V Y K A K Y K - Y K L I L Z S H .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW MIGHT ONE REFER TO ITEMS LIKE JARS, BOWLS, FORKS AND COLANDERS? "GASTRONOMICAL OBJECTS."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

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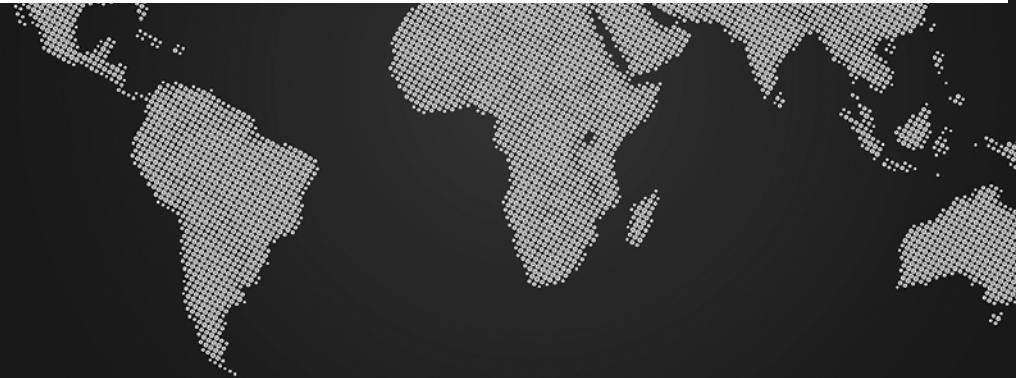
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AUTO RACING/NFL

Spire played the game and got a NASCAR win

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — When Furniture Row Racing decided to fold, team owner Barney Visser enlisted an industry agency to help him sell off his assets.

Visser wanted Spire Sports and Entertainment to sell the charter he owned that guaranteed entry into the top racing series in the United States. Spire scoured the garage for a buyer, searched for

**In the
Pits**

prospects outside of racing and came up empty every time. So Visser floated an idea past Spire co-owners Jeff Dickerson and T.J. Puchyr: Why didn't the two of them buy a charter and start a race team?

"When he said it, we straight up told him we can't afford it," Dickerson told The Associated Press on Monday. "That was our hope he'd cut us a deal or give us some corporate financing or something."

Visser wanted \$6 million — "sticker price," Dickerson said — and he and Puchyr partnered on the bank loan that officially launched Spire Motorsports the day after last season's final race. Now the team has a victory, a fluke win at Daytona International Speedway because 20-year-old Justin Haley just happened to have cycled into the lead before horrible weather stopped the race.

In the 2 hours, 12 minutes it took NASCAR to decide whether to call the race, drama and debate surrounded the Spire situation. Haley himself admitted had racing resumed, he would have been quickly passed and a rain storm was his only shot at collecting the checkered flag in his third career Cup start.

Beyond that, though, was another question: Did Spire deserve

the trip to victory lane?

Some suggested Dickerson and Puchyr made a cash-grab when they bought Visser's charter because it should pay for itself in two years. Others believe they are gaming the system, and aren't really a true race team.

The charters have been used through the first 17 races of the season are built by Premium Motorsports, where Spire leases shop space. The team runs at the back of the field, uses different drivers every week and Haley was only in position to win the race because he was running 27th when 17 cars at the front were knocked out of the race in a crash.

T.J. Puchyr, Spire co-owner chief Peter

Sospense the luxury to adamantly insist Haley would not pit for gas or tires or any reason at all — they were going to stay on the track, see where they landed after the other remaining cars played their hands, and then pray like never before for the mother of all rainstorms.

"It's not lost on me that luck was on our side," Puchyr said. "But I'm not going to feel bad about it at all."

There is a misnomer that Spire is nothing more than an agency that represents drivers and tries to find them seats. But for years, the North Carolina-based company had been working with some of the top teams in NASCAR in facilitating sponsorship deals, bringing new business into the sport, recruiting employees, headhunting or, as Puchyr says, "we've put a lot of money in a lot of people's pockets in this garage."



TERRY RENNA/AP

Justin Haley, center, waits on pit road in the rain with crew members after the NASCAR Cup Series auto race was stopped because of weather at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday. Haley was declared the winner a short time later and new team Spire Sports and Entertainment had its first win.

They have been urged by some of their mentors — think Rick Hendrick, Chip Ganassi, Toyota, the late Harry Scott, former NASCAR team owner Todd Braun — to refocus some of their energy on acquiring something of their own and Spire did just that.

"We were perfectly content living in the margins and being behind the scenes," Dickerson said. "But the agency business is quite difficult. You are always waiting for someone. Waiting for someone to make a decision to

complete a deal. We were not in control of our own destiny and we wanted to try to do something on our own."

So Spire bought a minor league hockey team, a promotion company that runs 40 short track races across the country and they run Knoxville Speedway in Iowa. Then came Visser's offer. Now Spire owns a winning race team.

They make no apologies for the path that got them to victory lane and are adamant that NASCAR, under the new direction of

Chairman Jim France and President Steve Phelps, is where Spire needs to be.

"Everybody had a chance to buy the charter and didn't," Dickerson said. "We don't want to race this way forever, piecing it together and not winning teams. But we literally are betting on the model of the sport coming our way in the next few years so we can race straight up. We have been building teams for everyone else in the garage, and now we are building ours."



TONY AVELAR/AP

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo is spending part of his down time between the end of minicamp and the start of training camp on July 27 working in Southern California with former pitcher-turned-quarterback guru Tom House.

49ers' Garoppolo looks to find 2017 form with summer school

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Jimmy Garoppolo is going to summer school before starting training camp with the San Francisco 49ers.

Garoppolo is spending part of his down time between the end of minicamp and the start of training camp on July 27 working in Southern California with quarterback guru Tom House.

House is a former major league pitcher and pitching coach perhaps most famous for catching Hank Aaron's record-breaking 75th career homer in the Atlanta Braves bullpen in 1974. But in recent years, House has run a quarterback academy in Huntington Beach called 3DQB, where he helps passers refine their throwing mechanics.

House has worked with several star quarterbacks over the years, including Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Matt Ryan and Carson Palmer. Garoppolo met House during his time in New England as Brady's teammate on the Patriots and has been spending time working on his mechanics all offseason as he comes back from season-ending knee surgery.

"We're trying to implement drills as close to game-like situations as you could get to," Garoppolo said. "At the same time, we're sticking to mechanics and the basics. That's what quarterbacking comes down to. You have to be really good with the basics and do them over and over again. It's good to get someone with as much experience as Tom."

The extra work this offseason is important for Garoppolo, who played just three games all last season before tearing his ACL and has just 10 career starts in five NFL seasons.

Garoppolo showed promise after arriving in San Francisco in a trade with the Patriots midway through the 2017 season. He stepped in after a few weeks and won all five starts, earning a five-year, \$137.5 million contract.

Garoppolo completed less than 60% of his passes in his three starts last season and saw his yards per attempt drop, while his sack and interception rates went up. Now the Niners hope he can regain his form from 2017 with help from an overhauled group of receivers, including second-round receiver Deebo Samuel, third-round Jalen Hurd and veteran Jordan Matthews.

NHL

NYC-area rivals are creating an offseason buzz

BY VIN A. CHERWOO
Associated Press

The New York Rangers' rebuild got a big boost with the additions of forwards Artemi Panarin and Kaapo Kakko. The New Jersey Devils drafted Jack Hughes with the No. 1 pick and traded for P.K. Subban to improve their defense.

The Islanders are coming off a second-place finish in the Metropolitan Division and a run to the second round of the playoffs for the second time since 1993. Now, they return the core of their lineup for the second year under Stanley Cup-winning coach Barry Trotz and president/general manager Lou Lamoriello.

With the opening of training camps a little more than two months away, the three New York-area teams — which haven't made the playoffs in the same year since 2007 — are buzzing with excitement.

"It's awesome just in this area, even south Jersey with the Flyers, but Islanders, Devils, Rangers have real strong teams," Devils

general manager Ray Shero said. "It's an exciting time for all the teams in this area."

New Jersey had the top pick for the second time in three years. In 2017, the Devils took Nico Hischier at No. 1 and got off to a strong start before earning a wild card. They took a step back last year and missed the playoffs, and then won the draft lottery.

Hughes and Kakko were the consensus top two picks, with the Rangers certain to take whichever player New Jersey passed on.

"They're both really good players and it's hard to pick one over the other," Shero said, "because Kakko is a great kid, a hell of a player, it's good for the rivalry."

The Rangers and Islanders both tried to sign Panarin, the top player available when free agency opened on Monday. The 27-year-old Panarin signed a seven-year, \$81.5-million deal, reportedly spurning more money from the Islanders to join a Rangers team that has missed the playoffs two straight years after a seven-year run that included a trip to the



PAUL VERNON, ABOVE, AND MARK HUMPHREY, BELOW RIGHT/AP

Above: Columbus Blue Jackets forward Artemi Panarin, the top free agent this offseason, signed a seven-year, \$81.5 million deal with the New York Rangers. The Rangers, New York Islanders and New Jersey Devils are all making moves to be competitive. **Below right:** Nashville Predators forward Wayne Simmonds signed a \$5 million, one-year contract with the New Jersey Devils last week.

Stanley Cup Final.

"The rivalry will never change, which is great for the area, great for hockey," Lamoriello said. "As far as the ingredients to each team, all I worry about is the New York Islanders and competing against ourselves to be the best we can. I'm not losing any sleep over what anyone else is doing."

After losing out on Panarin, the Islanders calmed their anxious fan base by re-signing captain Anders Lee and adding goalie Semyon Varlamov to replace Robin Lehner, a favorite in his one season in New York.

Last month, the Islanders inked center Brock Nelson and forward Jordan Eberle to new deals, keeping two players that were instrumental in their run to the postseason.

"We feel very good about our team," Lamoriello said. "We feel very good about our core players, having them all back for the most part is very important."

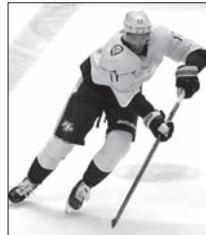
Getting Panarin was a big move for the Rangers after they

went into rebuilding mode at the deadline in 2018, dealing veterans for young players and draft picks. They continued that strategy at the trade deadline this year.

However, the Rangers have been busy improving their defense since the end of the season. They signed Adam Fox, acquired the rights to restricted free agent Jacob Trouba from Winnipeg and also signed forward Vitali Kravtsov and goalie Igor Shesterkin — two Russians they drafted in previous years.

"This by no means alters our plan," Rangers coach David Quinn said of the contract for Panarin. "He's part of the rebuild and part of the process that's been going on over the last year and a half."

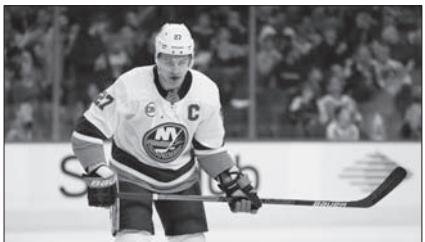
Shero liked the competitive vibe that was injected into the rivalry with the top two picks of the draft, much the way it happened in 2017 with the Flyers, who took Nolan Patrick at No. 2. He said he believes the division matchups



make it more exciting, with the young players going to teams that play each other more often.

"It's great for the area," Shero said. "It's great for the rivalry and whether you play four or five times, we hope to play more against teams like the Islanders and Flyers and Rangers because that means we're in the playoffs."

"You see all three teams here ... it makes for a real good rivalry and a great division."



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The New York Islanders re-signed captain Anders Lee, helping to keep a second-place team relatively intact.

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BRIEFS/CYCLING

Briefly

Breeders' Cup adds safety measures for Santa Anita

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Breeders' Cup will increase the number of veterinarians on site during its world championships this fall at Santa Anita, where 30 horses died during the racing meet that recently concluded.

That's according to Craig Fravel, president and chief executive of the Breeders' Cup, who said reaction to the board of directors' decision to keep the two-day event at the historic Southern California track has been "very supportive."

"People had every opportunity to know what the facts are before they decided," he said by phone Monday while driving from San Diego to Los Angeles. "The fact that it was a unanimous vote is reflective of the sentiment in the room."

Santa Anita will host for a record 10th time on Nov. 1-2.

Besides the 14 vets on-site during Breeders' Cup week, there will be 20 on hand during the two days of racing, Fravel said.

"Every horse gets examined two times, probably more," he said. "We have the strictest medication rules. We'll be looking at horses throughout the summer and fall before we get to the Breeders' Cup. We certainly don't mind people asking those questions."

The event will be run under the house rules adopted by track owner The Stronach Group to improve safety. Those include a reduction in the use of race-day Lasix, an anti-bleeding medication.

Fravel said there wasn't one factor that swayed the Breeders' Cup board to keep the event at Santa Anita.

"We've been following the situation since it began to evolve in January, February, March," he said. "It was a combination of things: medication reforms, track surface improvements and changes in management."

Manfred: MLB seeks answers on baseballs

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said "there is no evidence from the scientists that the ball is harder" but "the drag of the baseball is less."

He said the sport had not been given answers by scientists.

"Pitchers have raised issues particularly about the tackiness and seams on the baseball and we do believe those could be issues," Manfred said.

Manfred said "baseball has done nothing, given no direction for an alteration in the baseball."

In the middle of a Major League Baseball season that has seen home runs being hit at a record pace, union head Tony Clark said, "I believe that the ball suddenly changed and I don't know why."

Batters have hit 3,691 homers in 1,345 games, one pace to hit 6,669 over the full season. That

would be 19% above last year's 5,558 and 9% over the record 6,105 hit in 2017.

T-Wolves complete deal for Layman, 5 others

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves have finalized the acquisition of six players for roster depth and reserve roles, including a sign-and-trade deal with Portland for forward Jake Layman.

The Timberwolves then completed a trade with Golden State as part of the deal that sent D'Angelo Russell from Brooklyn to the Warriors, bringing guard Shabazz Napier and forward Treveon Graham to Minnesota for the rights to Israeli forward Lior Eliyahu. The Wolves also announced Monday the signing of free-agent forward Noah Vonleh and rookie guard Jarrett Culver and the claiming of guard Tyrone Wallace off waivers from the Los Angeles Clippers.

Most of the deals were agreed to last week before the NBA's free agency moratorium was lifted. Culver, the No. 6 overall pick from Texas Tech, was acquired from Phoenix in the draft-day deal that sent No. 11 pick Cameron Johnson and forward Dario Saric to the Suns.

Vonleh signed a one-year, \$2 million contract. Layman, who was acquired for the rights to Montenegrin forward Bojan Dubijevic, received a three-year, \$11.5 million deal.

In other basketball news:

■ The Dallas Mavericks have finalized a deal to acquire guard Delon Wright from Memphis in a sign-and-trade agreement for the restricted free agent.

The Grizzlies will get second-round draft picks and the rights to Satnam Singh in the deal announced Monday.

The Mavericks and Wright have agreed on a \$29 million, three-year contract as part of the trade. Dallas acquired Wright after losing out on free-agent target Danny Green, who chose the Los Angeles Lakers.

Sharks re-sign Labanc to 1-year, \$1M deal

The San Jose Sharks on Monday re-signed 23-year-old forward Kevin Labanc to a one-year, \$1 million contract. With Joe Pavelski, Joonas Donskoi and Gustav Nyquist gone, the Sharks are counting on Labanc continuing his career progression and taking advantage of a bigger role.

Labanc set career highs with 17 goals, including four game-winners, 39 assists and 56 points last season, and helped the Sharks reach the Western Conference finals. His most memorable moments came in Game 7 of the first round when he had three assists and the go-ahead goal on the power play in the third period that propelled the Sharks to knock off Vegas.

Manfred said "baseball has done nothing, given no direction for an alteration in the baseball."

In the middle of a Major League

Baseball season that has seen

home runs being hit at a record

pace, union head Tony Clark said,

"I believe that the ball suddenly

changed and I don't know why."

Batters have hit 3,691 homers in

1,345 games, one pace to hit

6,669 over the full season. That



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Italy's Elia Viviani, center left, sprints to win the fourth stage of the Tour de France on Tuesday. The 133-mile stage began in Reims and finished in Nancy.

Viviani storms bunch sprint to take Tour's fourth stage

France's Alaphilippe retains overall lead

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

NANCY, France — Italian rider Elia Viviani claimed his first career stage win on the Tour de France after storming a bunch sprint on Tuesday.

Viviani was ideally set up by the Deceuninck-Quick Step lead-out train in the finale and made the most of the slight uphill finish in the eastern city of Nancy. He used his considerable power to edge Alexander Kristoff and Caleb Ewan and claim the fourth stage of the three-week race.

The 133-mile flat route from Reims to Nancy did not pose any major difficulty and was a perfect opportunity for sprinters to get a stage win.

Viviani's teammate Julian Alaphilippe, the first Frenchman to wear the yellow jersey in five years after his solo victory in Stage 3, kept the overall lead, with no change at the top of the overall standings.

Both men hugged warmly after their team produced a second straight stage win.

Kristoff opened up the sprint in the final stretch but could not hold off Viviani on the left side of the road.

Viviani has now posted stage wins at all three Grand Tours, including four at the Giro and three at the Spanish Vuelta.



France's Julian Alaphilippe puts on the overall leader's yellow jersey on the podium after the fourth stage of the Tour de France on Tuesday. He leads Wout Van Aert of Belgium by 20 seconds.

Alaphilippe was cheered throughout the stage. After several dozen fans greeted him at his team hotel in the morning, supporters lining streets across the small villages of eastern France wildly cheered him on, shouting "Lou lou, lou lou!" — the Frenchman's nickname.

Alaphilippe enjoyed a day free of pressure, well protected in the main pack by teammates, and then played a role in the final sprint to launch Viviani's final effort.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas and other main contenders enjoyed a calm day too, just making sure they rode at the front

to avoid crashes or splits.

Under bright sunshine in Reims, three riders attacked from the start.

On long stretches of flat roads, Yoann Offredo, Frederik Backeert and Michael Schär built a lead that never exceeded 3 minutes, 40 seconds as the peloton kept them on a leash for nearly 112 miles before sprinters' teams organized the pursuit and sped up the pace.

The trio was eventually caught with 10½ miles left, in the small Cote de Maron climb, leaving the spotlights on the fastest men of the peloton.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Players look to turn win into something more

Equity became central theme of World Cup win

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

LYON, France — As the U.S. players celebrated their Women's World Cup title by dancing on the field, a chant rose from the crowd in Lyon: "Equal pay! Equal pay!"

It was a fitting tribute after the team's monthlong march to a fourth overall title in the sport's premier tournament, where equity emerged as a main theme. The Americans were out front because of their lawsuit back home seeking to be paid as much as their counterparts on the men's national team.

But it wasn't just about pay equity at this World Cup. Players hope the attention they've received in France translates to greater support for the women's game — and women in general.

"We, as all players, every player at the World Cup, put on the most incredible show that you could ever ask for. We can't do anything more to impress more, to be better ambassadors, to take on more, to play better," U.S. star Megan Rapinoe said. "It's time to move that conversation to the next step."

Even the hosts, eliminated by the United States in the quarterfinals, believed the focus on the tournament — with its record-breaking television ratings — could lead to a greater victory in terms of player development and resources.

"I think we achieved something and I'm proud to have shown France that football can also be played by women and that's a first victory. I think it will help for the future, but I can't guarantee it," French forward Eugenie Le Sommer said. "To have won over the public is a good thing, but we shouldn't just be satisfied with that."

For others, it's just getting what they've been promised.

The Nigerian team staged a brief sit-in at its hotel after it was eliminated from the tournament because players had not been paid their bonuses and allowances. Some were owed money from as far back as 2016.

In soccer-crazy Argentina, the women's team barely registers in the shadow of the men's team. But the Argentinian women earned their first-ever World Cup point at the tournament with a scoreless draw with Japan in the group stage. Argentina had been outscored 33-2 in six previous games.



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Julie Ertz, center, holds the Women's World Cup trophy Monday as she joins fellow members of the United States women's soccer team, winners of a fourth Women's World Cup, while celebrating their victory after arriving at Newark Liberty International Airport,

"For women's football in Argentina, it is great that we are starting to flourish," Argentina coach Carlos Borrello said. "We are starting on our way and just starting to face up to these powerful forces in football."

A movement for equality pushed Argentina's soccer association into giving professional status to the national women's league earlier this year. The fight for recognition has coincided with the country's feminist movement taking to the streets with marches against violence and inequality.

Jamaica coach Hue Menzies was blunt about the influence he hoped the Reggae Girlz would have back home: "We want to make an impact socially."

Like many teams in the region, Jamaican women have struggled for basic support, even equipment. There's been little or

no compensation for players. The Reggae Girlz even disbanded in 2008 but were revived five years ago with the help of Bob Marley's daughter, Cedella, who became an ambassador for the team, tirelessly seeking sponsors and funding.

FIFA itself came under fire during the tournament for the imbalance of prize money between the men's and women's World Cups.

The Americans earned \$4 million for winning the World Cup — double the amount earned four years ago — as part of a \$30 million prize pool. But that's far less than the \$38 million earned by France for lifting the men's trophy last July in Moscow.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino promised to double the prize money to \$60 million for the next Women's World Cup in

2023, but it will still lag far behind the \$40 million that will be paid out at the men's 2022 tournament in Qatar.

FIFA's cash reserves at the end of 2018 stood at \$2.74 billion.

Soccer's governing body also was criticized for scheduling the Women's World Cup final on the same day as the Gold Cup final in the United States and the Copa America final in Brazil.

"If you really care are you letting the gap grow? Are you scheduling three finals on the same day? No, you're not. Are you letting federations have their teams play two games in the four years between each tournament? No, you're not," Rapinoe said. "That's what I mean about the level of care, you need attention and detail and the best minds that we have in the women's game, helping it grow every single day."

US team embraces off-field activist role

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Setting itself apart from other great American sports teams, the U.S. women's soccer team is embracing a front-line role in social justice causes even as it savors a fourth world championship.

The players sued the U.S. Soccer Federation for equal pay and treatment vis-a-vis the men's national team. With a lesbian coach and several lesbian players, including World Cup MVP Megan Rapinoe, they're a proud symbol of LGBTQ inclusion. And they have stood firmly behind Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after she said she'd refuse to

visit the White House if invited by President Donald Trump.

Far from being daunted by these off-the-field roles, the players seem to relish them.

"I feel like this team is in the midst of changing the world around us as we live, and it's just an incredible feeling," Rapinoe said.

"These athletes generate more revenue and garner higher TV ratings but get paid less simply because they are women," said Molly Levinson, spokeswoman for the players in their lawsuit. "It is time for the federation to correct this once and for all."

A spokeswoman for the largest U.S. LGBTQ-rights organization,

Matilda Young of the Human Rights Campaign, said the impact of the team's inclusiveness would be profound.

"Young LGBTQ athletes, who all too frequently are made to feel unwelcome, have seen themselves reflected in these history-making champions," Young said. "Having Americans from every corner of our country embrace these women who are unabashedly proud of their country and of who they are sends a powerful message not only to LGBTQ people, but to sports fans around the world that we are here, we are queer, and we just won the World Cup — again."



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Megan Rapinoe was one of several outspoken players on the U.S. Women's World Cup team.

MLB

Which All-Stars will be traded?

Several players being targeted by contenders

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — For a day, Will Smith was in for quite a treat — teammates with Clayton Kershaw, Freddie Freeman and Christian Yelich.

Soon, the San Francisco reliever could be playing with one of them for real.

Smith went into the All-Star Game on Tuesday night well aware his days with the last-place Giants might be dwindling.

"If I get traded, it'll be the fourth time," the left-hander said. "After the first one, you're kind of numb to it."

Fellow All-Star pitchers Marcus Stroman, Shane Greene and Brad Hand also are possible trade targets as the July 31 deadline approaches.

Hand is an old hand at this. The San Diego Padres sent the left-hander to Cleveland just two days after the 2018 All-Star Game, during the break.

"I didn't really think I was going to get traded last year," Hand said Monday. "It's part of what we signed up for. ... There's really nothing you can do about it unless you have a no-trade clause."

"I mean, obviously, there's a select-hand of guys whose names are always thrown out there, so it's always the teams at the top of the division looking to get stronger and teams at the bottom looking to get something in return, so we'll see what happens," he said.

At last year's All-Star Game, there was little doubt it was Manny Machado's last time in a Baltimore uniform. He even gave a hint of what was to come when he pulled out his phone — while



NICK WASS/AP

Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Brad Hand could be on the move before the end of the month. Hand was dealt to the Indians last season by the Padres just before the July 31 trade deadline.

playing shortstop — and posed for a selfie with Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp.

The next day, the Orioles traded Machado to the Dodgers.

Greene has 22 saves and a 1.09 ERA for the last-place Detroit Tigers, making him an attractive option for teams in the playoff chase.

"It's a business and it's part of the game. Right now, I'm here. I'm going to enjoy myself," Greene said.

Stroman is 5-9 with a 3.18 ERA for Toronto, a team that hopes to build for the future with the likes of Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Cavan Biggio.

"I don't know if I'll be part of it," Stromann said.

Some teams, such as the Indians, will see where the next few weeks take them. They've recently closed the gap on Minnesota in the AL Central, meaning Hand and his 23 saves and 2.17 ERA might not be so expendable.

Same goes for Cleveland pitcher Trevor Bauer. There's bound to be talk about San Francisco lefty Madison Bumgarner and Mets pitcher Zack Wheeler.

But contending clubs can't take too long. There used to be two trade deadlines — July 31 for swaps without restrictions, then Aug. 31 to deal players who had

cleared waivers.

Major League Baseball changed the rule this season, making it all-or-nothing by July 31.

So the 29-year-old Smith, who has 23 saves, a 1.98 ERA and has struck out more than half the lefties he's faced, will see what this month brings.

"Right now, I'm wearing the orange and black, and that's who I'm trying to help win every day. I know something could happen, but I don't take a peek at what people are saying. There's so much out there, and you don't know what's true."

AP freelance writer Brian Duilic contributed to this report.

Scoreboard

American League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	31	568	.648	—
Tampa Bay	52	39	.571	6½	
Baltimore	49	42	.526	5½	
Toronto	34	57	.374	24½	
Minnesota	27	62	.303	30½	

Central Division

	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	56	33	.629	—	
Cleveland	50	38	.568	5½	
Indians	49	42	.530	12½	
Kansas City	30	61	.330	27½	
Detroit	26	57	.329	26	

West Division

Houston

	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	57	33	.633	—	
Oakland	49	41	.549	7½	
Seattle	46	45	.534	2½	
Los Angeles	45	46	.495	12½	
Seattle	39	55	.415	20	

National League

East Division

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	54	37	.593	—	
Washington	47	42	.533	6	
Philadelphia	47	43	.532	6½	
New York	50	44	.544	13½	
Miami	33	62	.375	19½	

Central Division

	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	47	43	.522	—	
Milwaukee	46	45	.533	13½	
St. Louis	44	44	.500	2	
Pittsburgh	44	45	.494	4½	
Cincinnati	41	48	.471	4½	

West Division

Toronto (Chirinos) 1

Boston 6, Detroit 1

Tampa Bay 2 N.Y. Yankees 1

Houston 11, L.A. Angels 10, 10 innnings

Arizona 4, Milwaukee 3, 11 innnings

Atlanta 4, Miami 3

Pittsburgh 6, Milwaukee 5

San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 3

Sunday's games

Tuesday's game

NL (TBD) vs. (TBD) at Cleveland, Ohio

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

Friday's games

Houston (TBD) vs. Texas (Lynn 11-4)

Tampa Bay (Chirinos 7-4) at Baltimore (Dungey 4-10)

Toronto (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (TBD)

Boston (Archer 2-1) at Cleveland (Clevinger 2-2)

Houston (Cole 9-5) at Texas (Chavez 3-4)

Detroit (TBD) at Kansas City (Duffy 3-5)

Chicago White Sox (TBD) at Oakland (Fiers 8-3)

Seattle (Leake 7-7) at L.A. Angels (TBD)

Pittsburgh (Archer 3-6) at Chicago Cubs (Darvish 2-4)

Washington (TBD) at Philadelphia (TBD)

L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Boston (Rodriguez 9-1)

N.M. Mets (Vargas 3-4) at Miami (TBD)

San Francisco (Anderson 3-2) at Milwaukee (Wainwright 5-7)

Cincinnati (TBD) at Colorado (TBD)

Atlanta (Keuchel 2-2) at San Diego (TBD)

(TBD)

Home Run Derby

At Progressive Field, Cleveland, Ohio

Monday First round

	Total	Long	ET
Joc Pederson, LA Dodgers	21	452	:30
Alex Bregman, Houston	16	417	:00
Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Toronto	29	476	:30
Matt Chapman, Oakland	13	477	:30
Ronald Acuna Jr., Atlanta	25	469	:30
Josh Bell, Pittsburgh	18	459	:30
Pete Alonso, NY Mets	14	466	:30
Carlos Santana, Cleveland	13	463	:00
Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Toronto	29	488	:30
Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Playoff	29	488	:30
Vladimir Guerrero Jr., 1st Swingoff	29	488	:30
Vladimir Guerrero Jr., 2nd Swingoff	29	488	:30
Joc Pederson, LA Dodgers	29	450	:30
Joc Pederson, 1st Swingoff	29	450	:30
Joc Pederson, 2nd Swingoff	29	450	:30
Pete Alonso, NY Mets	20	467	:30
Ronald Acuna Jr., Atlanta	19	469	:30
Pete Alonso, NY Mets	23	459	:30
Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (3), Toronto	22	463	:30

Payday: Alonso joins Judge as only rookies to win it

FROM BACK PAGE

"This was surreal," Alonso said.

Alonso is the second rookie to win outright, following Yankees star Aaron Judge in 2017. He's also the first Mets player to win the derby since Darryl Strawberry shared the title with Wally Joyner in 1986.

Alonso, making the major league minimum of \$555,000 this season, has hit 30 home runs.

One of the only bright spots this season for the struggling Mets, Alonso gave New York's NL fans something to brag about while the Yankees chase another title.

Alonso showed some dramatic flair with two nail-biting wins to reach the final against Guerrero. He nipped Cleveland's Carlos Santana 14-13 in the first round and Atlanta's Ronald Acuna Jr. 20-19 in the second to set up a showdown with the year-old Guerrero, whose father won the event in 2007.

With one of baseball's most fearsome swings, Guerrero figured to be a force but there was no way of predicting he'd hit 91 homers — 74 more than his dad's entire total 12 years ago.

But Alonso was up to the challenge, and shocked Guerrero, who had electrified a crowd of 36,199 fans while also destroying an on-field camera with one of the bats he didn't crush over the wall.

Guerrero defeated Pederson in a semifinal that required a playoff and two swingoffs and will go down in derby lore.

They were tied 29-all after their four-minute round and then again following a 60-second session. Guerrero and Pederson then each homered once when given three swings, forcing another best-of-three round.

Guerrero hit two, screaming at his second shot, which barely cleared the 19-foot high wall in left. Pederson couldn't match up, hitting a grounder on his final cut be-

fore both players shared an exhausted embrace near home plate as the fellow All-Stars stood and applauded.

The last Home Run Derby in Cleveland was also won by a New Yorker — Yankees first baseman Tino Martinez, who took the 1997 crown over a field which included Hall of Famers Ken Griffey Jr. and Jim Thome, who didn't clear the walls once.

Santana fared better than Thome, hitting 13 dingers in the first round. But Alonso rallied with two homers in the final 15 seconds to hit 14 as the Cleveland crowd cheered.

Guerrero mashed 29 homers in the first round, breaking Josh Hamilton's record at Yankee Stadium in 2008, and the barrage included a 476-footer that nearly stuck like a dart into the scoreboard in left field.

Chapman only managed 13, but he did connect on one that went a foot further (477 feet) than Guerrero's deepest shot.

WIMBLEDON

Serena secures semifinal berth

Williams needs 3 sets to oust American Riske

BY CHRIS LEHOURITES
Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — When Serena Williams' serve wasn't getting her all the points she needed at Wimbledon, she turned to her return game.

Job done, and then some.

Williams reached the semifinals at the All England Club for the 12th time, overcoming five breaks of serve to beat Alison Riske 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 Tuesday on Centre Court.

"It's a long, arduous road," Williams said. "It's not easy."

The seven-time Wimbledon champion, who owns 23 major titles overall, was broken twice early in the first set despite six aces, trailing 3-1 and 4-3, but she broke back each time and then again to take the set.

Williams landed 81% of her returns (25 of 31) in that first set and won more than 50% of the points on both Riske's first serves and her second serves. That return percentage dropped slightly to 76 in the second, but it jumped back up to 81 in the third.

She won the match with an ace, her 19th of the day. Williams had served only 22 aces in the previous four rounds.

"She was really so close to taking the win today," Williams said. "She was playing her heart out. She had nothing to lose and I realized I didn't, either. I need to just do better."

Riske, who upset top-ranked Ash Barty in the fourth round, had never before faced Williams on the tennis tour and was playing in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time. She certainly took advantage of every chance she had, converting each of the five break points she created.

Williams will next face Barbara Strycova on Thursday in the semifinals. Strycova reached her first Grand Slam semifinal by beating 19th-seeded Johanna Konta 7-6 (5), 6-1 on Centre Court.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

The United States' Serena Williams defeated fellow countrywoman Alison Riske 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 during their women's quarterfinal match Tuesday at Wimbledon in London. Williams will face the Czech Republic's Barbora Strycova in the semifinals.

bora Strycova on Thursday in the semifinals. Strycova reached her first Grand Slam semifinal by beating 19th-seeded Johanna Konta (19), Britain, 7-6 (5), 6-1. Elina Svitolina (8), Ukraine, def. Karolina Muchova (11), Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.

Simona Halep (7), Romania, def. Shuai Zhang, China, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Women's Doubles

Third Round

Horia Horia, Romania, and Florin Mergea, Romania, def. Alison Riske, United States, 6-4, 6-3.

Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic, def. Johanna Konta (19), Britain, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4, 6-1.

Elina Svitolina (8), Ukraine, def. Karolina Muchova (11), Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.

Simona Halep (7), Romania, def. Shuai Zhang, China, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Men's Doubles

Third Round

Henrik Kontinen, Finland, and John Peers, Australia, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, and Joe Salisbury (12), Britain, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4, 6-1, 13-12 (2).

Eden Hazard, Belgium, and Steve Darcis, Belgium, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia and Filip Polasek, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4.

Tim Puetz, Germany, and Michael Venus, New Zealand, def. Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, and Robert Lindstedt, Sweden, 6-3, 6-1.

Women's Doubles

Third Round

Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Timea Babos (1), Hungary, def. Alize Cornet, France, and Petra Martic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-3.

Elise Mertens, Belgium, and Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus, def. Li Na, China, and Chinese Taipei and Hao-Ching Chan (9), Chinese Taipei, 7-5, 6-3.

Quarterfinals

Elise Mertens, Belgium, and Timea Babos (1), Hungary, def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-3, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles

Second Round

Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada and Mattek-Sands (3), Croatia, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States and Jamie Murray, Britain, 6-3, 6-2.

Franco Skupon, Croatia and Raducanu Oana (12), Romania, def. Nikolay Davydenko, Spain, and Aljcia Rosolska (6), Poland, 6-2, 6-2.

Eden Silva, Belgium, and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Elise Mertens, Belgium, and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina celebrates defeating the Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova during their women's quarterfinal match.

the fourth round in 2017. She will next play Halep.

Muchova was trying to become



TIM IRVING/AP



TIN IRVING/AP

Romania's Simona Halep defeated China's Shuai Zhang in their quarterfinal match.

the first woman since 1999 to reach the semifinals on her Wimbledon debut.

SPORTS



On to the semifinals
Serena ousts fellow American Riske in quarterfinals » Page 31

HOME RUN DERBY

Payday



The Mets' Pete Alonso yells during one of his swings while competing in the final of the Home Run Derby on Monday in Cleveland. Alonso, a rookie, won the competition.

Photos by John Minchillo/AP



The Dodgers' Joc Pederson, left, and the Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr., right, put on quite a show in their semifinal, combining for 79 home runs. Guerrero eventually advanced to the final after a four-minute round, a playoff and two "swingoffs".

Alonso outlasts Guerrero to pocket \$1 million prize

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Mets rookie Pete Alonso has a million-dollar swing.

New York's newest slugger outlasted a worn-down Vladimir Guerrero Jr. in the final round of the All-Star Home Run Derby on Monday night to win \$1 million — nearly double his 2019 salary.

Alonso somehow had enough to edge Guerrero, who hit 91 homers but ran out

of gas in the last round following an epic semifinal matchup against Dodgers outfielder Joc Pederson.

Needing 23 homers to beat Guerrero, Alonso connected for a homer to left-center before flipping his bat high into the air and hugging his pitcher, cousin Derek Morgan. Alonso was then swarmed by the NL All-Stars, who were treated to a power display unlike any in the event's history.

SEE PAYDAY ON PAGE 30

Inside: Several All-Stars likely to be traded, Page 30

Spirre unapologetic about NASCAR win » Auto racing, Page 26



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